

Hafa Adai!

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MCS tops 13th Annual Academic
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DUE TO EXPIRING LAND LEASE AGREEMENTS

Hotels still iffy on future investments

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Some members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands are holding back on making future investments on their hotels if they cannot get any assurances that their land lease agreements will be extended.

Without such an assurance, hotels whose public land leases are close to expiration say the uncertainty is putting a damper on their plans to improve

amenities and raise hotel standards.

HANMI president Gloria Cavanagh said that right now there has been very little communication regard-

ing the lease proposal that Marianas Resort and Spa had turned in back in August 2014.

"We also turned in our proposals at the end of June and Department of Public Lands has not gotten back to us. We're just asking for a yea or nay on some negotiations through friends who have been talking to DPL to get us back on the table," Cavanagh said.

"The fact that there is no announcement from [Department of Public Lands] Secretary [Pete A. Tenorio]

See HOTELS on Page 4

Cape Air down this weekend

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Cape Air flights to the CNMI were cancelled last Friday, and this appears to have continued into the weekend.

In the meantime, United Airlines has provided extra flights to accommodate passengers.

Cape Air and United are code-share partners, with Cape Air pro-

viding the Guam-Saipan flights of United passengers traveling to the Commonwealth.

According to flightstats.com, flights scheduled to the Francisco C. Ada International Airport at 4:15am, 8:40am, and 8:35am were cancelled yesterday.

Four flights on Friday were cancelled as well, according to the website.

See CAPE AIR on Page 4

SSHS repeats as Mock Trial champ

» **Marianas High School wins second, professionalism award**

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Southern High School dominated the 17th Annual High School

Mock Trial Competition last Thursday and Friday at the House of Justice. The defending champions went head to head with the formidable student attorneys and witnesses of Marianas High

School in the final round.

Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. & Sr. High School; Saipan's Grace Christian Academy, Kagman High School, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Mount Carmel School; and Tinian Jr. & Sr. High School also participated in the regional tilt.

The schools argued the hypothetical criminal case of the *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands v. Quinn Siguenza*. Saipan Southern High School defended Siguenza, while Marianas High School was on the prosecution, with the CNMI's first elected At-

See SSHS on Page 4



The Saipan Southern High School Mock Trial team has their picture taken with mock trial officials, teachers, and attorney coaches in the Supreme Court after being named the 2015 Mock Trial High School champions.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

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ASIA

Prince William's visit to Japan evokes memories of his late mother, Diana.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Healthy aging is made simple with some tips from a geriatrician

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LIFE & STYLE

As Mr. Spock, Leonard Nimoy gave his character enduring life.

» **PAGE 21**

GOT A **NEWS TIP?**

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Local

China-bound man to be charged with bulk cash smuggling

Probable cause has been found to warrant the filing of criminal charges against Delin Ma, a 52-year-old man who allegedly tried to conceal \$20,000 cash in his hand-carried luggage while bound for a flight to Shanghai, China.

At a preliminary hearing on Thursday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy ruled that the U.S. government has established probable cause to charge Ma with bulk cash smuggling.

Ma will be arraigned on March 17 at 9am.

Kennedy reminded Ma of the conditions of his pretrial release and advised him that if

he violates any of those conditions, he may be arrested or held in contempt.

Ma, who posted a \$10,000 secured bond for his temporary release, appeared with his court-appointed counsel Mark Hanson at the preliminary hearing. Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorring represented the U.S. government.

At the hearing, Lorring called to the witness stand Homeland Security Investigations special agent Michael D. Lansangan, who related to the court their investigation of a person that led to Ma's arrest last Feb. 13 at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

Sichuan Airlines flight 3U-

8648 was scheduled to depart Saipan that day and fly to Shanghai, China with no stops in between.

Under the currency reporting laws, a person is required to report any amount of \$10,000 and over when traveling out of or into the U.S.

Lansangan said Ma told him he only had a little over \$6,000 and a little over 1,000 Chinese RMB with him when asked. Ma also declared the same amounts in a CBP form.

When the excess money was found, Ma later allegedly said the money was not his but belonged to a person named "Zheng Xiaolong" who owned "L&M Market."

According to Lansangan, Ma stated that the \$20,000 retrieved from his luggage was given to him by his boss, Shaorong Zeng, who operates the LN Market.

Ma stated that Zeng told him she had borrowed the money

from a person in China named Maiying Xu and needed to pay back the loan.

Ma stated that Zeng told him the two envelopes contained a total of \$20,000, and asked him to deliver the money to Xu at her house in Putian, China.

Lansangan said Ma also stated that because he was scared of losing Zeng's money, or having it taken or stolen from him, he took the envelopes and hid them in his pants before packing them in his luggage. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Apatang asks lawmakers for \$100K to clean Saipan

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David Apatang stood before the House of Representatives on Friday to ask lawmakers to support a bill allocating \$100,000 to clean the island.

The mayor made the plea during a House session, saying he is mandated to clean Saipan, and that the \$100,000 "is necessary."

Apatang said some of the equipment for solid waste management are "down" and "needs a lot of repairs." The municipal government's two backhoes also need drivers, which will be trained for weeks, the mayor said.

"I promised to clean the island, and that is what I will do," Apatang said, adding that the task "is very hard" unless his office gets the funds it needs.

Aside from the Apatang funding, the mayor also asked for more personnel.

He said the Saipan Mayor's Office currently has 38 office workers and 10 more doing fieldwork. Apatang said he needs 10 more to complement his team.

However, the budget request may face delay.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) introduced House Bill 19-30, which seeks "to ap-



propriate the sum of \$100,000 from the Solid Waste Management Revolving Account for the Third Senatorial District to fund the expense of removing junk at the Koblerville Field, Kagman, Lower Base, and various other villages."

H.B. 19-30 was one of the bills introduced at a House session on Friday.

Yumul wanted lawmakers to calendar H.B. 19-30 for action, in the hopes of expediting the proposed budget, but lawmakers decided to forward it to the House Committee on Ways and Means for further review. Lawmakers voted 11-7 in favor of further review.

March is proclaimed 'Women's Month' in CNMI

The Inos administration proclaimed March as "Women's Month" in the Commonwealth.

March 8 was also proclaimed "International Women's Day," following the United Nations' lead to declare a day in March for "women's rights and international peace."

According to the proclamation, International Women's Day is "a chance to pay tribute to ordinary women throughout the world and reflect on the

progress and achievements made to advance women's equality, celebrate the gains made by women in our society and reflect on the challenges and barriers which women continue to face."

Attendees of the Friday proclamation signing included the CNMI Women's Association.

The CWA was also recognized as a "beacon of strength on behalf of all women in the Northern Mariana Islands."

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who led the signing of the proclamation on Friday, requested lawmakers, community members, and various groups to support programs, ceremonies, and activities related to "Women's Month."

As part of the celebrations, the CWA has lined up a series of events to "reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments of women and honor their role in shaping the course of nation's history." **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**



Gov. Eloy S. Inos, flanked by members of the CNMI Women's Association, signs a proclamation to declare March as "Women's Month."

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Ninth Circuit affirms Miah's 21-month prison sentence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the 21-month sentence imposed on Mohammad Jahangir Miah, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy for the production of fraudulent CNMI driver's licenses.

The Ninth Circuit judges said they reviewed the U.S. District Court for the NMI's hearsay ruling for an abuse of discretion because Miah made a hearsay objection in federal court.

The Ninth Circuit judges ruled that because the chal-

lenged statements were both solidly inculpatory and was corroborated by recordings, the district court did not abuse its discretion when it admitted them as statements against interest under Federal Rule of Evidence 804(b)(3).

Prior to sentencing, the district court found Miah to have breached his plea agreement by participating in a scheme to cash stolen checks.

Miah, through counsel, contended that, at his breach-of-plea hearing, the district court ran afoul of the Confrontation Clause and improperly ap-

plied the hearsay exception when it admitted as evidence out-of-court statements of a co-conspirator in the check-cashing scheme.

"Because neither argument is meritorious, we affirm," the Ninth Circuit judges said.

The Ninth Circuit judges noted that Miah acknowledges that their review is limited to plain error with respect to his Confrontation Clause claim because he did not make a Confrontation Clause objection in the district court.

"Under that standard, we may only reverse when an error is

"clear" or "obvious," said the judges, citing precedent.

The judges said Miah acknowledges that no court has found the Confrontation Clause to apply to breach-of-plea hearings and that this court has held that the Confrontation Clause does not apply in analogous contexts such as hearings on sentencing and revocation of supervised release.

"Thus, it is not clear or obvious that admitting the co-conspirator's out-of-court statements at Miah's breach-of-plea hearing violated the Confrontation Clause," the judges said.

In March 2013, the federal court sentenced Miah to 21 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce and transfer identification documents.

In August 2013, Miah pleaded guilty to 12 charges in seven

cases filed in the Superior Court.

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Miah to a total of 14 years, all suspended except for two years, to be served day for day without parole. Miah was given credit for 424 days of time served.

In July 2012, the federal court acquitted the defendant in a criminal case of conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks.

Drainage systems at four CUC power plants to be reviewed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter approved Friday an \$80,000 task order for Gilbane Federal to assess the drainage systems at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plants on Saipan and Rota.

Carter approved the stipulation and task order 4 that was jointly requested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the CNMI government, and CUC.

Gilbane Federal is the Engineering and Environmental Management Company that is assigned to expeditiously complete some stalled CUC projects.

According to Gilbane Federal's task order summary sheet, the assessment, design, and engineering of the power plants' drainage systems will start on March 5, 2015, with a target deadline of Aug. 30, 2015.

The \$80,000 funding for task order 4 will come from CUC's grant funds.

The project will bring the storm water, process water, and contact water systems at CUC's power plants 1, 2, and 4 on Saipan and at CUC's Rota power plant into compliance with regulations.

According to Gilbane Federal, once this preliminary assessment has been completed and comments from CUC and EPA have been incorporated into the report, additional

phases of project implementation will be proposed.

Work in 2015 will involve initial facility assessments only, with further planning, design, and construction phases planned in future years.

First is to assess the condition and operation of all infrastructure at the facility, including oil water separator systems, drainage systems, secondary contain-

ments, and their discharges and any water discharges.

Second is to identify engineering, structural, or regulatory deficiencies, and improvement required in consultation with CUC plant operations and EPA.

Third is to develop work plans with cost estimates to bring all infrastructure into good working condition and regulatory compliance.

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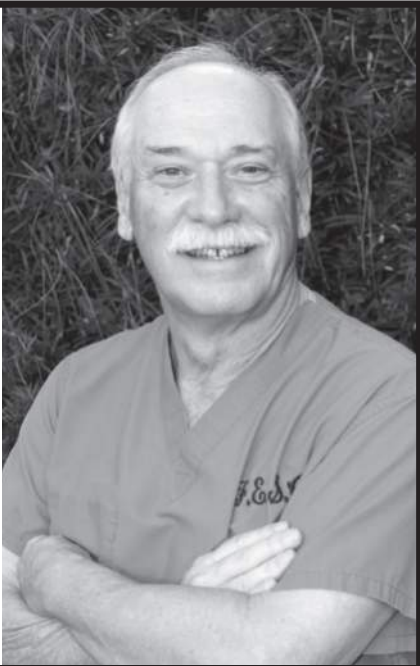
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Committee urges stronger federal-local ties for coral reef protection

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

In light of global climate events, the U.S. All Island Coral Reef Committee urges the “immediate elevation” of the climate change issue within the federal government, among other issues, in a recent report.

Global risk to coral reefs continues to grow, according to AIC chair Fran Castro. Un-

der the status quo, coral reefs continue to decline at alarming rates, she said.

According to Castro’s report from late February, the year 2015 is expected to be the worst coral bleaching event since 1998, when the U.S. “functionally lost 15-20 percent (almost 1/5th) of the world’s coral reefs.”

AIC asked the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to “be a voice in pushing for the immediate elevation of

the climate change issue within the federal government.”

“Immediate action is needed by the federal government to take on this carbon emission challenges. Inaction is simply not a viable strategy,” the report stated.

To the recent listing of 20 coral species under the Endangered Species Act, AIC noted “the need for increased staff capacity” for the newly listed species. This is also needed for

“the current bottleneck” in the review of permits and projects for previously listed corals, the report said.

AIC also recommended a “balance between resource protection and use” in any special regulations made for these species.

They said consideration should be given to activities related to common use.

“Common non-destructive fishing and boating activities

should be allowed to proceed as usual due to their importance as a local tradition and way of life in coral reef jurisdictions,” the report stated.

Exemptions should also be made for “minor accidental impacts” to these corals, according to AIC. Additionally, thresholds should be defined for what is maximum allowable impact, stated AIC.

AIC urged further dialogue and consultation between them and NOAA Fisheries on the issue moving forward.

AIC also asked that the Task Force “formally support” the Coral Reef Management Fellowship program, so that they work together to build an “institutionalized program with a sustained source of funding.”

This program builds coral reef

management capacity at the local level. Right now, the program is kept afloat by NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program and contributions from AIC members. Funding will be pursued again in the next one to two years.

AIC jurisdictions include American Samoa, the CNMI, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Affiliate jurisdictions are the Federal States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau.

AIC presents the “unified voice” for the effective management of coral reef ecosystems in the U.S. and Freely Associated states. The committee aims for “thriving coral reef ecosystems,” that “effectively managed to protect their ecological, social, and economic value for future generations.”

CHCC, GMH to meet with new Region 9 director

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña and Guam Memorial Hospital executives are meeting the new Region 9 director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 9.

Muna will be leaving today, March 2, to join GMH officials in their *tête-à-tête* with new HHS Region 9 Director Melissa Stafford Jones in San Francisco.

CHCC and GMH will be teaming up to update Jones on healthcare issues in the Pacific.

“We’re teaming up with

Guam to talk on improving the healthcare in the region. If you look at Guam, you sometimes ask why is it so difficult to transfer patients to Guam? Why is it that we have to transfer patients to the Philippines? These are things that they have a concern with and it has to do with payment issues. That is one of the reasons why we’re teaming up to basically explain to Jones on everything,” Muña said.

She said they also want to open the communication lines and extend their relationship with HHS further.

“It’s the first time in history that the two sole public hospitals in Guam and the CNMI are getting together. We want to talk about the Affordable Care Act and the benefits that are not available to the territories,” Muña said.

Medicaid issues will also be discussed.

“I will be criticized that I am leaving but I will be very ineffective if I just sit around so we need to go and meet with Jones to meet and greet and then discuss the issues,” she said.

Aside from meeting Jones,

Muña said they will also go to Washington, D.C. with Department of the Interior and HHS executives, but this has not been confirmed yet.

Also included in her off-island itinerary will be the Health Conference of the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association in Palau this March.

Muña said she has already gotten approval from Gov. Eloy S. Inos for her trip to San Francisco and that she will not be using CHCC funds for the trip. Her trip to Palau will be paid for by the Pacific Island Health Officers’ Association. *(Jayson Camacho)*

SSHS

From Page 1

torney General Ed Manibusan presiding as the final round’s judge.

The SSHS team was composed of Mikhail T. Alcantara, Emily DeWitt, Jin Pyo Jeon, Sung Min “Paul” Kim, Clarissa King, Aaron Tiger Lee, Annika Matias, Charlei Micha McEntee, Eliezha May Mendoza, and Jun Seo “Allen” Park. The team was coached by teacher Frank Lee Borja and attorneys Claire Kelleher-Smith and Michael A. Sato.

Angela Aninon, Alvin Arcega, Scarlet Chen, Maria Theresa Dizon, Olivia Hirsch, Robert Malate, Jaryrald Mercene, Lee Ann Jastillana, Ann Margaret Norcio, and Jewel Olivos comprised the Marianas High School team. The students were coached by teachers Dencio V. Manglona and Donald Cohen and attorney Jonathan Wilberscheid.

This year’s winner will be recognized at the 2015 Law Day ceremony and will travel to Raleigh, North Carolina, in May to compete with state-side teams. SSHS, now Team CNMI, will be having scrimmages with the Judiciary’s law clerks and CNMI attorneys in the next three months in preparation for the national tilt.

“Our primary goal here is to get as many students involved as possible so that we can build our legacy,” SSHS team captain Jun Seo “Allen” Park told *Saipan Tribune* after his school was named the winner. “The changes in rules were definitely a challenge for us and we had less time to prepare, so it was harder.”

Park said he and his team spent countless hours during lunch, after school, and weekends practicing with their attor-

ney and teacher coaches.

Co-captain Emily DeWitt expressed similar sentiments. “I feel excited. I am very pleased with the result. Our main priority was to have fun. ...It is such an honor to have won once again. After our experience last year, we realized that nationals was at a much more difficult level. We are going to put a lot of work into preparing and of course having fun along the way.”

SSHS teacher coach Frank Borja said he is extremely proud of his students. “I am proud of the leadership of the team captains. This shows the level of professionalism and hard work that the team has exemplified throughout the year. We are going to celebrate and then start preparing for nationals!”

The defense witness who took the stand as Quinn Siguenza, Aaron Tiger Lee, said he found some of the case material easy to assess because of his three years’ experience.

SSHS attorney coach Sato said the team is fortunate to have had many students return to be a part of the competition.

“We have an incredible group of students this year. ...The new students worked incredibly hard to get up to speed too,” he added.

Fellow attorney coach Kelleher-Smith told *Saipan Tribune* she and Sato continue to volunteer their time because “we think their education is important.”

SSHS was also crowned as the competition’s champions in 2004, 2006, and 2014.

Attorney General Manibusan said the students were noticeably prepared for trial. “They were on their feet. Even if you asked them a question, they turned around and answered sharply. It was evident that they knew the material and studied for this complicated case.”

One of the five final round jurors, Jenn Dockter, was equally impressed with the students’ caliber. “I have been doing this for quite a few years and I am always very impressed. I think what impressed me the most was the amount of fearlessness. There is a certain amount of fearlessness you need to have to be a part of this.”

After the championship round, the students gathered for an awards ceremony at the Supreme Court to recognize outstanding performances of individual student attorneys and witnesses.

The Best Prosecution Witness Award was presented to Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. & Sr. High School’s Glengela Guiang. SSHS’ Tiger Lee received the Best Defense Witness award.

Jun Seo “Allen” Park was presented with the Best Defense Attorney award, while Mount Carmel’s Aaron Cushing received the Best Prosecution Attorney award.

None of Mount Carmel School’s team members, including their teacher and attorney coach, were present at the awards ceremony to receive their student’s award.

In addition to being awarded consolation gifts as the runner-up, MHS also bagged the Supreme Court Professionalism Award. The award recognized the team’s professionalism, courtesy, and respect to judges, jurors, fellow participants, and the justice system.

MHS team member Jayrald Mercene described the two-day competition as a good experience. “This gives us more motivation to work harder next year.”

A memorable experience

Grace Christian Academy joined this year’s competition

for the first time in six years.

School principal Beth Nunez said her students “worked hard and put in extra hours after school.”

“They were amazing. I am excited to come back next year and do even better. We will be back and we are not going to leave,” she added.

GCA team member Minna Ito told *Saipan Tribune* that she is elated to have represented her school. “It was very fun and I learned a lot of things. There was definitely a lot of teamwork involved.”

Rota student Cleo Cuizon said her team was committed to the competition. She and her team had to conduct several practices with their attorney coaches on Saipan through VTC, or video teleconference, because of travel issues.

“It was difficult, but we managed to get things done,” she said. “The competition was nerve-racking but fun at the same time. This made me a more confident speaker and students.”

Public School System Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan explained that she is well aware of the hard work of the students, mentors, coaches, and lawyers.

“I am so grateful for all the support. Mock Trial is a great benefit and it can certainly help students understand the legal profession and have them think in a very different capacity and hopefully prepare them to be more assertive and understand the process of the law,” she said. Mock Trial coordinator Nicole M. Torres said the continued success of the competition is a result of the diligent work of students and their coaches, and the support of the NMI Judiciary, CNMI Bar Association, PSS, and generous sponsors.

CAPE AIR

From Page 1

When asked for details on Friday, United Corporate Communications released the following statement:

“Cape Air/United Express flights between Guam and Saipan on Feb. 27, 2015, operating an ATR42 aircraft have been cancelled following a technical issue that is currently being addressed by teams from Cape Air and ATR. We will continue to provide updates on

the anticipated dates and times when the aircraft will return to service...Our support teams in both Guam and Saipan are providing assistance to passengers to make the necessary arrangements for them to complete their travel. We realize this is an inconvenience to our customers and we apologize for the disruption.”

Swaths of flights were cancelled during the middle months of last year largely due to technical issues. United flew accommodating flights at that time as well.

HOTELS

From Page 1

makes it difficult on who we’re negotiating with. We’re also waiting for the [Inos] administration on their appointment of a DPL secretary if they will be changing,” she added.

Mariana Resort’s public land lease expires on April 30, 2018. It is pursuing a new lease with a commitment of some \$30 million in added investment.

Aside from Mariana Resort, other hotels with land leases that are close to expiring are Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, and Kanoa Resort, Cavanaugh said.

She noted that Hyatt had committed to pour in \$25 million to renovate the hotel but because of what happened to Marianas Resort earlier in the fall, Hyatt has put everything on hold.

“It has affected our tourism market as far as the addition to rooms and renovations because we have not settled this matter. Mariana Resort has been here for 37 years. We sent our first lease draft in early summer and they still haven’t gotten back to us on our investments, which were within our proposal. We’re going to continue doing that because letting the resort run to disrepair is not good for anyone and is not good for the CNMI and the central government,” Cavanaugh said.

“I have the catalogue of new flooring on my conference table that remains there and the draw-

ings of additional rooms have been put into another file until negotiations are in place and these are hotel plans that gets held back,” Cavanaugh said.

She believes that, without the assurance of their continued stay, the quality of HANMI hotels is going to be lower because no one is going to put in the millions of dollars in investment.

“It doesn’t create a very good market for new investors coming in and being on time and meeting our commitment. A new kid in town can come and say I want that property and you’re out. They’ll think twice about investing. We all have been here for 30-plus years and through thick and thin. When Japan Airlines pulled out, we have proven that we want to stay and be contributing corporate citizens and if I want to look at a long term investment, I want to see first how we are treated,” Cavanaugh said.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco said the general process is that when a public land lease with a private entity is about to expire, the administration provides the lessee—in this case, one or more of the CNMI’s resorts and hotels—a letter asking whether the lessee wants to enter into a new lease.

“If said lessee is interested to enter into a new lease and if the public land exceeds one hectare or more, then the process of legislative approval is required, including the submission of said lessee’s business plan as if it were a new lease,” Blanco said in a statement.

Inos names more govt appointees

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has named more appointees to government agencies, including the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Ports Authority, Civil Service Commission, Medical Profession Licensing Board, and Historic Preservation Review Board.

Inos appointed Albert A. Taitano to serve on the CUC board of directors representing Saipan. This initial appointment requires the advice and consent of both the Senate and House of Representatives.

If confirmed, Taitano will serve a four-year-term to begin on the date confirmed by both chambers of the Legislature. The counting of the four-year

terms starts on the date the appointment is approved by the Senate.

The governor also appointed Dr. Warren Creed to serve

as a member of the Medical Profession Licensing Board, which will require the advice and consent of the Senate. If confirmed, he will serve a

four-year term.

The governor appointed Jose R. Lifofoi as a member of the CPA board. He will be required to file a statement of

financial interest and other requirements.

Felicita P. Abraham was reappointed to serve as a member of the CSC. She will also be asked to disclose a financial statement to the Public Auditor.

The governor also appoint-

ed Barry Wonenberg and Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei to serve on the Historic Preservation Review Board. The advice and consent of the Senate is not required and the appointees will serve a four-year term. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

MIFICPA tax seminar on Saturday

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants is inviting the public to this year's tax seminar, to be held on March 7, 2015, a Saturday, from 8am to 12pm at the Coral Ocean Point. This year's tax seminar will focus on tax updates for 2015, changes in tax laws, and tax filing requirements. David J. Burger, director for Burger & Comer, PC Certified Public

Accountants, will be the guest speaker.

Registration starts at 7:30am. Registration fee for members is \$20. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee, which includes refreshments, lunch, and certificate of attendance.

We encourage participants to turn in their tax questions ahead of time to facilitate the question-and-answer portion of the seminar by contacting any of the organizers below.

For reservation and more details, call or email Olive Aninon at 287-6587 (olive.mificpa@gmail.com); Noli Santos at 285-6810 (nolsantos@yahoo.com); Irene Santiago at 789-0320 (irene_saipan@yahoo.com); Eloisa Agustin at 287-9367 (eloi18@yahoo.com); or Cris Bucalig at 287-09451 (cris_bong@yahoo.com) (Mificpa)

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(Deadline 4/15/15)

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*On approved credit, some restrictions apply. Documentation and registration fees not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. Offer expires 8/31/2014 or when current stock is sold-out. Maximum credit card payment toward purchase is \$2500. Tucson total price is \$21,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.75% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$338.14 or \$156 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$20,288.40. 2016 CX-5 total price is \$23,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.75% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$368.89 or \$170 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$22,133.40. OUTLANDER SE total price is \$25,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.75% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$399.63 or \$184 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$23,977.80.

MCS tops 13th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What name is given to a modern graffiti artist’s personalized signature?

Mount Carmel School answered “tag,” and knocked out Saipan International School in the sudden-death tiebreaker round of Saturday’s 13th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl, to claim first prize.

For the tiebreaker, challenging questions would be given to the competing teams until one misses and the other is correct.

The graffiti question was the second question in this round, after a question about the solar system.

Hopwood Junior High School claimed third place,

after SIS. MCS, SIS, and Hopwood were the last three teams standing in last Saturday’s competition, held at Saipan Southern High School.

Schools competed and were eliminated through several rounds. Questions on social studies, science, math, or English, for example, got more difficult with each round.

The winning MCS team was made up of Jan Bobadilla, Alyssa Attao, Dayna Macaranas, Hyo Lim Cho, and Aldwin Batusin.

Eric Kiser, Michael Lee, Ruth Park, Alex Park, and A.J. Hudkins represented SIS.

Natalie Montano, Joseph Yanto, Michael Alovera, A.J. Samonte, and Limbert Guiao represented Hopwood.

Other competitors were San Antonio Middle School, Chacha Oceanview Junior Academy, and Dandan Middle Agape Christian School, Marianas Baptist Academy, High School, Grace Christian School.



The Mount Carmel School is presented with their certificates and trophy after winning first place in Saturday’s 13th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl at Saipan Southern High School.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 • Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff
vs.
JOSE T. PANGELINAN,
Defendant.

This matter came before this Court on February 10, 2015, for a hearing on Plaintiff’s Motion for an Order of Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property (“Motion”). Robert T. Torres, Esq., appeared on behalf of Plaintiff Bank of Guam. Defendant Jose T. Pangelinan failed to appear. The Court found that the Defendant was properly served with Plaintiff’s Motion and the Notice of Hearing on the Motion through publication in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Based on the documents presented, the records of this matter and the Court being fully advised of the premises, Plaintiff’s Motion is **HEREBY GRANTED** and **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. That the mortgage property to wit: Tract 20472-5, (part of original Tract 20472, AH506), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2064/82 the original of which was registered 26 MAR 82 as Document No. 14154 at Land Registry, Saipan, shall be sold to satisfy the foreclosure judgment entered by this Court.

2. That Plaintiff’s counsel Robert T. Torres, Esq., or his designee, is hereby appointed as Auctioneer, pursuant to 2 CMC § 4537, with the authority to sell the mortgaged property in a public auction at a reasonable date and time to be determined by Mr. Torres.

3. That the public auction shall be held at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which is hereby designated as the place of sale.

4. In addition to the notice requirements of 7 CMC § 4204(b), that the publication of the Notice of Auction and Judicial Sale of the mortgaged property announcing the date and time of the public auction, the location of the public auction, and other reasonable terms of the auction, shall be made in at least two local newspapers of general circulation once a week for four (4) successive weeks or 30 days before the date of the public auction.

5. That the public auction shall be conducted in accordance with the following terms, which shall be included in the Notice of Sale to be published:

a. The auction shall be open to the general public.

b. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

c. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer/seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

i) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

ii) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

iii) to reject any and all bids.

d. That tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttaw@pticom.com.

e. That a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order or cashier’s check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

f. Auctioneer/Seller and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

g. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property, contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

6. Defendant retains the right to cure the default under 2 CMC § 4536(a) and may at any time prior to the fixed maturity date, pay the entire amount then due under the terms of the mortgage including accrued interest and reasonable attorney’s fees incurred.

7. Defendant shall allow Bank of Guam’s appraiser access to the interior and exterior of the property for inspection.

SO ORDERED this _ day of February, 2015.

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo, Associate Judge

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM
Plaintiff,
vs.
JUAN P. SAN NICOLAS and
JOANN M. SAN NICOLAS,
Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 30th day of May , 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **11th day of March, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Bank of Guam, District II, Songsong Village, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 172 located in Sinapalo, Rota, containing an area of 1,057 square meters, more or less as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 04 dated December 19, 1983, on file in said office.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950. Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 4th day of February 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



The Saipan International School students pose with their certificates and trophy after placing second in Saturday’s 13th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl at Saipan Southern High School.

DENNIS B. CHAN



The Hopwood Junior High School team places third in Saturday’s 13th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl at Saipan Southern High School.

DENNIS B. CHAN

BEST JOBS. BEST BENEFITS. BEST SUNSHINE.

Best Sunshine International is developing an Integrated Resort, which will include casino, hotels, restaurants, retail, spa, meetings, theater and themed entertainment.

As part of our commitment to the future of Saipan, and to providing the people of the CNMI with the Best Jobs and Best Benefits, Best Sunshine International will be opening a live training center (slots, table games & VIP facilities) in the DFS T Galleria to train and develop our staff in a live gaming environment.

WE ARE SEEKING TALENTED PEOPLE FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS WHERE FULL TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED:

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Manager

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Surveillance Operator
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Manager
Surveillance Supervisor

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Cage Cashier
Cage Supervisor
Cage Shift Manager



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To find out more about these positions, look on the Labor Department website (www.marianaslabor.net). If you believe you have the skills and attributes to be successful in these positions, please email your resume to bestsunshine@charterhouse.com.hk

Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine International.



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NMI gets \$83K for emergency food, shelter programs

The Northern Mariana Islands has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food And Shelter National Board Program.

The CNMI has been chosen to receive \$83,070 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities,

USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide.

The National Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

A local board made up of NMI stakeholders will determine how the funds awarded to the CNMI are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies here in the Commonwealth.

The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program. Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits

or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a volun-

tary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

The CNMI has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously with Salvation Army, Karidat, and Guma Esperanza participating. These agencies were responsible for providing 13,128 meals and 1,108 nights of lodging. Pub-

lic or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact local board chair John Hirsh at 234-3459 or John.Hirsh@redcross.org for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is March 16, 2015. (ARC)

Pew commends FSM action to protect sharks

WASHINGTON—The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia passed legislation on Feb. 4 to create a shark sanctuary in the country's full exclusive economic zone, which covers nearly 3 million square kilometers (1.1 million square miles) in the western Pacific Ocean. President Manny Mori transmitted and assigned the legislation as Public Law No. 18-108 last Thursday.

The Pew Charitable Trusts, which has worked the past four years with the Micronesia Conservation Trust to advocate for protection of sharks throughout Micronesia, welcomed the legislation. The measure prohibits the commercial fishing and trade of sharks and rays and their parts.

"Our commitment to the Micronesia Challenge includes the protection of the top predators in our ocean," Mori said. The Micronesia Challenge is a regional declaration of conservation goals to which the nation agreed in 2006. "Our traditional stories say that sharks protect the people. Now the people will protect the sharks."

On a broader scale, passage of the legislation marks the completion of the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary, which already includes the waters of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In total, the area of protected shark habitat across the contiguous area is larger than the size of the European Union.

Creation of the FSM sanctuary follows a grassroots effort spearheaded by the Micronesia Conservation Trust, based in Pohnpei. Led by executive director Willy Kostka, the organization built a coalition of conservationists, traditional leaders, and students to advocate for protection of sharks throughout Micronesia.

"More than 8,000 students from across the region signed petitions to support these protections," Kostka said. "This is something the people wanted."

Passage of the FSM's law creates the 10th shark sanctuary in the world and cements the country as a global leader in shark conservation. The sanctuary will protect iconic species such as silky and thresher sharks, which are considered near threatened and threatened,

» **Vast swath of western Pacific closed to commercial shark fishing**

respectively, by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Worldwide, an estimated 100 million sharks are killed each year in commercial fisheries. Nearly 30 percent of all known shark species assessed by scientists are threatened with extinction.

"The completion of the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary is truly a landmark action because it joins together a massive swath of the western Pacific as a trans-boundary sanctuary for all the sharks that migrate across this huge ocean region," said Angelo Villagomez, a shark expert with Pew. "We look forward to working with our partners in the FSM to make certain that the implementing regulations ensure strong protections for sharks."

Sharks play an important role in maintaining the health of the entire ocean. As top predators, they regulate the variety and abundance of other species in the food web, including commercially important fish. Sharks help maintain healthy marine habitats, such as coral reefs.

They also are among the foremost species that scuba divers want to see, and their presence helps attracts tourists to these islands. By establishing a shark sanctuary, the FSM is acting to strengthen the marine ecosystem, including coral reefs, and helping to secure industries, such as tourism, that depend on a healthy ocean. (Pew)

MVA sees 54,000 prospects at 2015 Japan Golf Fair

The Marianas Visitors Authority had the opportunity to reach 13 percent more visitors at this month's 2015 Japan Golf Fair compared to 2014. Over 54,000 consumers, golf business representatives and media representatives participated in the three-day event at Tokyo Big Sight on

Feb. 13-15, 2015.

"After last year's severe snowstorm, we welcomed the uptick in attendance at this year's golf fair," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Japanese sportsmen and women are still interested in golfing [on] Saipan and Rota,

and it's important to maintain our presence in the market until the economy and exchange rate swing back in our favor and the Japanese start travelling in larger numbers again."

The MVA operated an information booth during the fair where they distributed brochures

and answered questions about golf courses on Saipan and Rota and other tourism attractions throughout the Northern Mariana Islands. Attendees included 39,109 consumers, 14,307 industry reps, and 665 media reps.

Next year's fair is slated for Feb. 19-21, 2016. (MVA)



Naoya Asao, Japan Travel Trade marketing manager for the Marianas Visitors Authority, distributes information to consumers, industry reps, and media and answered questions at the 2015 Japan Golf Fair on Feb. 13-15, 2015, in Tokyo.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS OF SAIPAN Family grief support meeting on March 5

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, March 5, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause.

We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Com-

passionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents,

siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-0755). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

\$1M grant will improve libraries in US Virgin Islands

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina released last week nearly \$1 million in grant funding under the Office of Insular Affairs' Capital Improvement Project Program to make infrastructure improvements at three library facilities in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Educational resources provided through libraries are important to any community, especially island communities," said Kia'aina, "so it is very gratifying to support in-

frastructure improvements to these three libraries in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Florence Williams Library, located in the heart of the business and commercial district of Christiansted, St. Croix, is receiving \$600,000 for structural renovations and upgrades to protect its expansive collection of over 77,000 volumes, including materials for adults, young adults, and children.

The Athalie McFarlane Petersen Library, located in Frederiksted, St. Croix, is re-

ceiving \$250,000 for renovations and technological upgrades that will provide a safe, secure, and comfortable location for citizens to use public library resources for life-long learning and discovery.

The Elaine Ione Sprauve Public Library, located on St. John, is receiving \$65,000 for similar structural renovations and infrastructure upgrades that will provide a comfortable learning environment at the only public library on the island of St. John. (OIA)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday Daddy Jesse and Grandma Vicky! We Love you too much! Lots of love from Ana, Jesse Boy, and Jo-Danny. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH

A time to recognize everyday heroes

The American Red Cross is recognizing the country's everyday heroes during Red Cross Month.

"Everyday heroes help those in need in the CNMI commu-

nity," said John Hirsh, executive director, American Red Cross NMI Chapter. "They are our volunteers, our blood donors, people who take our classes, or those who make a financial con-

tribution to help us help others. During Red Cross Month we thank them for their support."

March has been recognized as Red Cross Month for more than 70 years. All of our

Homeland Security and Emergency Management said it will continue to monitor the situation and will be issuing necessary bulletins as soon as it becomes available. The public is being urged to continue to monitor the official bulletin, which will be available through local media sources or contact the CNMI dispatch center at 237-8000 for more information. (HSEM)

presidents, including President Barack Obama, have designated March as Red Cross Month to recognize how the American Red Cross helps people across the country and around the world.

The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters big and small in this country every year. It provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families at home and around the world; collects and distributes about 40 percent of the nation's blood supply and trains millions of

people in first aid, water safety and other life-saving skills.

Here in the CNMI, the NMI Chapter provided assistance to over 200 individuals who were victims of local emergencies, assisted over 100 military families, and trained hun-

dreds of people in lifesaving skills. "This month is a great time for people to become part of the Red Cross," Hirsh said. "They can become a Red Cross volunteer, work on a preparedness plan for their household, or take a Red Cross class."

The Red Cross is not a govern-

ment agency and relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, visit redcross.org/nmi or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross. (ARC)

2 earthquakes hit near Anatahan

Two earthquakes with preliminary magnitudes of 5.0 and 5.7 on the Richter scale hit near Anatahan Island on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 2:24am and 2:45am respectively, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Both earthquakes were located at latitude 17.001N, 145.835E

and 16.918N, 145.838E of Anatahan. This is about 64 kilometers (40 miles) north-northeast of Anatahan, 188 km (117 miles) north of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Both events did not prompt a tsunami watch or warning for the entire CNMI.

In a bulletin, the CNMI



American Red Cross



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Everlasting Impression

The sun rises on a bold, dynamic design, with curves and lines an expression of captivating style and sharp sophistication. The new Sportage, a car that lets you live life to the full.



**NEW 2015
SOUL**

Pushing the boundaries even further

Always moving forward, always evolving... that's the Soul. This exuberant, head-turning car has been given a makeover, with its unique design made even more unique through enhanced detailing, tweaked proportions and modern touches that give it a premium feel from top to bottom.

Starting at
\$139
per paycheck*

**NEW 2015
FORTE**

Add a dose of extraordinary to your life

Perhaps you never thought innovation, technical excellence and exceptional style could all come together in an affordable passenger car. But finally, they do. Let the new Forte take you places you've only imagined.

Starting at
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A talented compact RIO

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Kia Rio LX retail price \$16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$269.22 or \$124.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$16,153.20.
Kia Forte LX retail price \$17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$285.06 or \$131.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$17,103.60.
Kia Soul LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price \$22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$356.34 or \$164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price \$30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$490.99 or \$226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$29,459.40.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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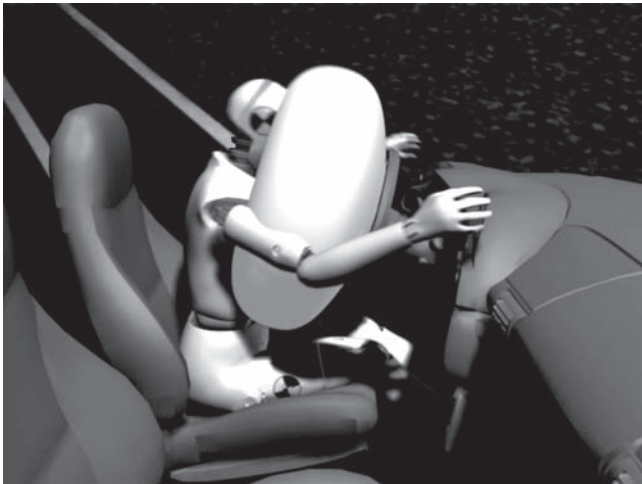
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EDITORIAL

Get Takata's dangerous air bags off the road



You would think a company that makes vehicle air bags—a critical safety feature—would go all-out to assure the world that its product is, you know, safe.

And if something went terribly wrong, causing this safety product to kill? You'd expect the company to do everything possible to protect lives and its own reputation.

Takata Corp. of Japan apparently doesn't see it that way: the company's air bags, found in millions of cars in America, sometimes explode when activated. But rather than take full responsibility for its egregious quality lapses, Takata hems, haws and resists demands from U.S. safety regulators.

This is a company that needs to be forced, or shamed, into doing the right thing.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration went after Takata in November, demanding that the company issue a national recall for driver-side air bags after evidence mounted of a horrific problem: In certain circumstances, Takata air bags in older cars can blow apart like a bomb when activated, shooting metal shrapnel into the passenger compartment, and sometimes the driver. Six deaths have been attributed to the phenomenon.

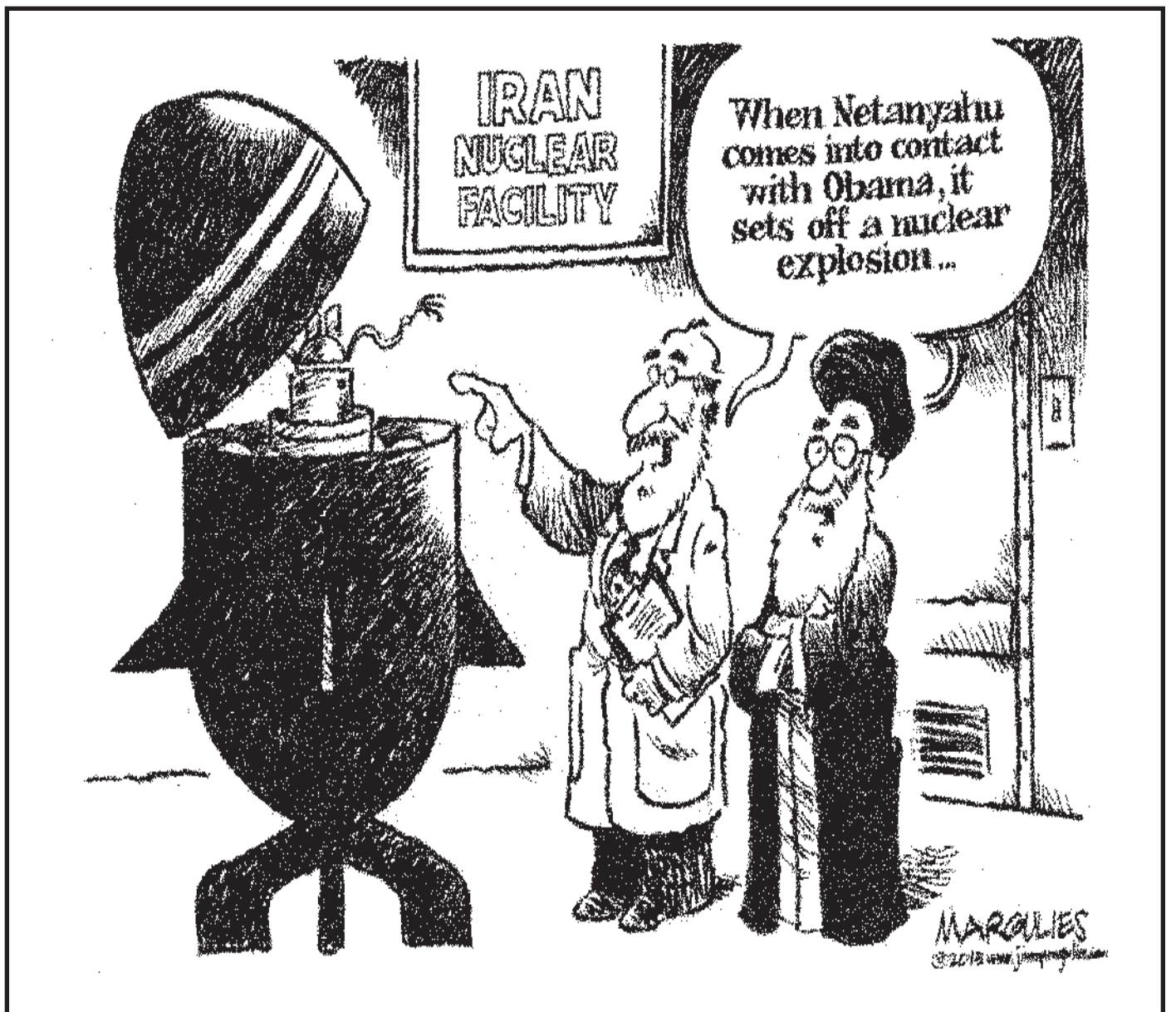
Takata refused to issue the national recall, sticking instead to a narrower regional recall because the company believes its air bags are only susceptible to malfunction in areas of the country with persistent high humidity. The regulators disagreed, pointing to one or two cases of exploding air bags in North Carolina and California, regions with milder climates. Five automakers lost patience with Takata and declared national recalls on their own.

The regulators made a second demand of Takata: they want all of the company's records related to its air bag manufacturing process, testing protocols and anything else to help solve the riddle of the exploding air bags because the exact cause is still unknown.

Additionally, the NHTSA wanted assurances that Takata employees would explain how to analyze all that data. The demand seemed necessary because a Takata executive who testified before Congress late last year came off as evasive.

Late last week, the NHTSA reported that Takata is playing games instead of cooperating fully with the investigation. Yes, Takata dumped 2.4 million pages of documents on the regulators, but after several meetings with Takata's lawyers the com-

See AIR BAGS on Next Page



A weak America in a dangerous world

The world seems to be becoming more dangerous these days. Not so coincidentally, America's military power continues to decline rapidly.

Before considering how and why, here's a snapshot of what's happening around the globe:

- Russia has annexed Crimea, is dismembering Ukraine, is probing the defenses of Northern Europe, and is again casting a covetous eye on the Baltic and South Caucasus states. Vladimir Putin is exploiting not only Europe's dependence on Russia's energy resources and markets but also its anemic military condition, getting all he can while the getting is good.

- The Islamic State, homicidally focused on dragging the world back to the seventh century, has carved a caliphate out of the dysfunctional states of Syria and Iraq. It's fomenting instability across the region through its surrogates and franchises and other like-minded violent Islamists in Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Nigeria.

- Iran is pursuing a nuclear weapons capability, betting on the desperation of the U.S. to secure a "deal" that would make it impossible for us to stop them from succeeding.

- China is entrenching itself in disputed waters, fortifying atolls, muscling away the fishing and commercial fleets of competitor claimants, and contesting international airspace. Meanwhile, it's exploiting vulnerabilities in America's cyber shields to steal intellectual property worth billions of dollars and millions of man-hours, penetrate government and financial sector systems, and conduct deep cyber reconnaissance of America's national critical infrastructure.

In times past, the United States would have risen to such challenges to its security interests and to the existing global order, as it did when the Soviet Union or China sought to export their brands of communism. America's confident strength steadied friends and allies and pushed back against belligerent opportunism.

But those days appear to be receding. The U.S. has elevated other interests to higher priority (as a look at the federal budget readily shows), and the U.S. military's ability to protect America's global interests is in freefall.

In fact, the U.S. military now finds itself in a state where it would be unable to successfully handle two major conflicts in different parts of the world, a long-held objective of national security policy.

America's Navy, at 285 ships, is approaching pre-World War I levels; its Air Force flies planes more than a quarter-of-a-century old (some more than a half-century); the Army is approaching half the size deemed necessary just a few years ago; and the Marines,

By DAKOTA L. WOOD

The Heritage Foundation

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with demand for their shrinking force at record highs, have committed indefinitely to near-continuous rotational deployments of their operating forces.

This problem did not suddenly emerge. It has slowly, but relentlessly evolved as funding for the base-budget has declined in constant dollars, and the cost for manpower, equipment, and weapons has steadily risen. Extended production timelines for expensive, high-end platforms, sustained use of the force for the past decade or more, and lack of funding to replace items that are retired or lost in combat, have combined to result in a force that is older, smaller and more worn out.

All the details can be found in The Heritage Foundation's inaugural Index of U.S. Military Strength, an annual publication that assesses the condition of America's military forces and their ability to meet national security requirements. It also evaluates the condition of key allies and their regions as they affect the ability of U.S. forces to conduct operations abroad, as well as who poses direct, high-level challenges to U.S. national security interests.

Some may suggest looking to America's allies. Though reasonably stable and steadfast, though, they are less capable due to their own neglect of their military forces. We can't assume they'll be able to contribute much. Further, competitors that pose serious challenges to America are investing heavily in military capabilities carefully matched to their own circumstances and objectives, increasing the challenges our forces would face.

These trends are ominous, to say the least, especially because it's far easier to decline still further than to make rapid improvements that take substantial time, money and attention—all of which seem to be in short supply.

The 2015 Index of U.S. Military Strength makes it clear that unless we take a greater interest in the state of our security—now—we may be in for some serious trouble.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

They broke the law. Now what?

It's not often that some of the CNMI's top elected officials admit to breaking the law they are supposed to uphold. But what is the consequence to now Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and House Vice Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) for breaking the Open Government Act in the course of passing the controversial Saipan casino law?

More importantly, where does this leave individual members of the community who have put their trust and faith in their elected officials and the government in general to do the right thing?

Does this have any bearing on the repealed and re-enacted Saipan casino law and the CNMI government's 40-year casino license agreement with Best Sunshine International, which "promised" a \$7.1-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan?

Torres, Deleon Guerrero, and Demapan's admission last week of law violation as part of a settlement of the lawsuit that private citizen Glen Hunter filed against them raises more questions and concerns.

These are on top of still unanswered questions about what transpired during elected officials' hush-hush trips to Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore and Manila, and the hasty manner in which the Saipan casino bill passed after those trips.

When ordinary citizens violate laws, they face consequences besides paying a fine. But what if those who admitted to specifically violating the Open Government Act are occupying top elected posts? Does their admission make them liable for prosecution for breaking the law in their official capacity as Senate president, House speaker, and floor leader at the time of Hunter's filing of a lawsuit against them? Since they are still in top government positions, will there be any reprimand for them?

Hunter sued the three lawmakers, along with other officials or entities that were later dismissed as parties to the lawsuit, over violation of the Open Government Act in passing the Saipan casino bill. The officials failed to meet the required public notices that were supposed to be issued at least 72 hours before the sessions when the bills were passed or the agenda in the public notice failed to include both bills as topics for discussion.

Will the Legislature or the Executive Branch compel the three elected officials to not violate any law again, and uphold laws to the best of their abilities as they always should?

The public can and should "always" demand a more open and more accountable government.

Casino investor Best Sunshine already paid a two-year advance \$30-million license fee to restore retirees' deferred 25-percent pen-

AIR BAGS

From Page 10

pany still hasn't provided the explanations regulators need.

Takata is being fined \$14,000 a day, the maximum, until it complies. The company insists it is cooperating, pointing to the documents and regular meetings with government engineers, but Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx doesn't buy it: "We need Takata's cooperation, and so far they have not demonstrated it."

This has to end. When the government demanded the recall in November, five deaths were attributed to Takata's air bags. Now it's six: Last month, Carlos Solis of suburban Houston got into a low-speed collision in his 2002 Honda Accord; the air bag detonated, sending a metal disc hurtling into Solis' neck and killing him.

About 17 million vehicles in the U.S. with Takata air bags are now under recall; as of late December about 2 million have been replaced. Takata needs to stop acting like a company paralyzed by fear of lawsuits and the cost of replacement units and fully cooperate. The driving public needs to know what went wrong with Takata's product, and every possibly defective air bag needs to be replaced.

If the regulators need a bigger stick to drive home the point, they should use it. Potential remedies include going to the Justice Department to force executives to cooperate. Car companies also need to make sure they aren't holding back. This week Honda's CEO announced plans to step down, paying the price for the company's lax response.

Five automakers are conducting national recalls of older model vehicles (mainly from 2000 to 2008) for defective driver-side Takata air bags: BMW, Chrysler, Ford, Honda and Mazda. Five more are conducting regional recalls: GM, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Subaru and Toyota.

To see if your vehicle is on the recall list, check the vehicle identification number at chicagotribune.com/recall.

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sion and the distribution of \$10 million utility vouchers last year, among other things, but do these millions of dollars that's now in the economy compensate for elected officials' violation of law?

The Saipan casino bill also didn't go through public hearings and passed the House and Senate only a day apart despite island voters rejecting the proposal twice before. Previous Legislatures also rejected similar bills legalizing casino gaming on Saipan.

Last week, rather than go through sworn depositions surrounding the passage of the Saipan casino legislation, Torres, Deleon Guerrero, and Demapan chose to admit violating the Open Government Act in the passage of Public Laws 18-38 and 18-43 or the original Saipan casino law.

Within months of the Saipan casino law's passage and after Hunter filed the lawsuit, lawmakers repealed and replaced it with Public Law 18-56. Whether the admission of law violation has any effect on P.L. 18-56 is everyone's guess at this time.

As part of the settlement agreement, the parties moved to dismiss Hunter's lawsuit "with prejudice." This means Hunter, a longtime advocate for a clean, transparent, and accountable government, cannot re-open it anymore. But while Hunter is prohibited from suing the same officials who admitted to violating the law, others can still pursue this or finish what Hunter has started.

Others can file an official Open Government Act request with the Legislature to, among other things, get the specifics on the off-island trips to Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and other places, that led to the passage of the Saipan casino law.

The House and Senate rules of procedure require that lawmakers report about their off-island trips during a session but nobody followed their own house rules and no one compelled them to do so in the case of the off-island trips leading to the casino bill passage.

But things have a way of catching up with government officials, and again, questions continue to pile up.

The House and Senate rules of procedures pertaining to off-island travel ought to be amended as soon as possible to give it more teeth, as earlier suggested, such as reporting the specific places where lawmakers will travel, for what specific purpose, who will they be meeting with and the affiliations of those individuals, and who paid for their trip, among other things.

Should anybody care how hard you tried?

Do you believe that "showing effort" should count more than it does, or do you think it's a disingenuously misleading reward system undermining the American character, both in school and out?

Let's put it another way: Do you respect an individual more because he or she struggled to achieve or create something, or do you applaud more vigorously if what they do appears accomplished through an astonishing act of grace, a hidden wellspring of talent or a moment of dazzling inspiration?

To be perfectly honest, if I hadn't been awarded points for effort, I might have never completed grade school. On our report cards, as I remember, the "E" hovered right there over the "F": Effort was dangerously close to failure but you could keep the worlds from colliding if you tried hard enough. You could do extra-credit reports and stay after school for study groups.

My inability to complete the most basic forms of arithmetic would have kept me in fourth grade long past menopause if the principal hadn't taken pity and permitted me to move along despite the fact that I was way behind.

I've only recently realized that I automatically reverse the last two digits in any string of numbers. This glitch renders me less mathematically adept, for example, than certain horses who when asked, "What's two plus three?" can paw the ground and offer correct responses while I'm still counting on my fingers.

I passed my classes because I displayed effort, not because I learned math. But how can we help young people understand life rarely gives partial credit for effort, especially if that effort doesn't lead to understanding or success?

Outside of school, very few people will ask you to show your work or explain how you arrived at your results: They just want to know you can do the job effectively, efficiently and without too much fuss.

The only people who will want you to show your work and ask you to provide a detailed accounting of how you got to where you are work for the IRS.

Rarely in life do we actually appreciate something more fully because it took a lot of effort. Do you really want a contractor who says, "I could be a couple of years late installing your bathroom because I have a really hard time measuring stuff"? Nobody wants

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio is a veteran journalist in the CNMI.



No formal investigation or audit was conducted about those questionable trips by these lawmakers—at least none that was made public. Would the admission of law violation by elected officials change that? Can and will the Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General now investigate or audit those trips?

So far, lawmakers' seeming response to the law violation admission is to propose to amend the Open Government Act itself, particularly the required 72-hour advance notice for bills.

Meanwhile, proposed changes to the casino license agreement—particularly the addition of a "live" casino training facility—are raising red flags.

Item 19 of the license agreement states in part, "The terms of this License may be modified by mutual written agreement between the Governor and authorized licensee representative."

To this date, there is no indication or official announcement that the governor (not the Lottery Commission or the Casino Commission) has already agreed to or approved Best Sunshine's proposal to have a "live" training facility, even though Best Sunshine has already reportedly secured a lease for such a facility.

The casino license agreement also requires the establishment of a "Development Plan Advisory Committee" to, among other things, "provide an established structure for ongoing communication between licensee and the Commonwealth, implementation of licensee development proposal requirements, and implementation schedules."

Under the casino license agreement, the committee is supposed to provide "weekly reports" on the status of projects, issues of concern and compliance with respective schedules and license requirements. Whether those weekly reports will be available to the public is also anyone's guess at this time.

By **GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her www.ginabarreca.com.



to hear her surgeon announce, "Boy, did I ever have trouble getting your gallbladder out! I had to get three guys to help me and they weren't doctors, either. They were pharmacists on their way to get coffee."

Why, then, do we like to think that somebody must suffer to produce a work of art? I recently learned from Pamela Katz's book "The Partnership" that the song "Mack the Knife," composed by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill for "The Threepenny Opera," took less than 24 hours to write.

And in my office I have printed out, for my own benefit as well as that of my students, the following line from New York literary agent Betsy Lerner's book "The Forest for the Trees": "Your struggle to produce a piece of writing of interest and value means nothing to the reader. The reader doesn't care what you went through to produce your work. He only cares if the piece succeeds, if it looks as if it arrived whole."

Sometimes things can take a very long time and still not be very good. It took us all of evolutionary history just to get where we are today, for instance, and mostly where we are today is on the couch.

Let's not pretend there's no difference between effort and accomplishment; let's not pretend there's no difference between those who try hard and those who do well.






Those we respect, admire and remember bring to their work diligence, focus and an indefatigable passion for improvement. They aren't perfectionists but they'll reject the shoddy and the second-rate.

We should learn to take genuine pride in a job well done and not expect praise for one simply carried out.

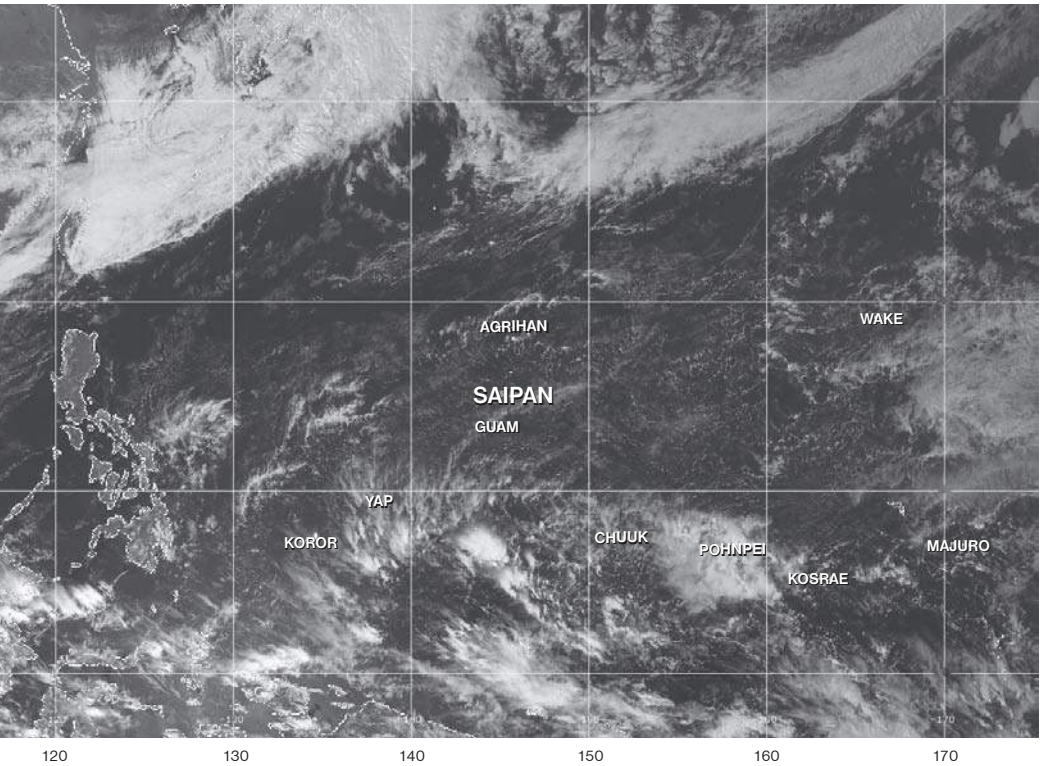
What we need is an honest assessment of our abilities, our talents—and our limitations. And that will take some real effort.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 1N148E through another circulation centered southwest of Pohnpei near 1N157E to end at EQ161E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring north of the trough southeast of Koror and Yap within 120 miles of a line from 1N136E to 8N140E to 9N145E. Similar conditions are present near the circulation centered southwest of Chuuk south of a line from 2N145E to 2N153E. Converging winds north of the trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei to near Kosrae within 120 miles of a line from 8N153E to 4N162E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼65
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼31
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼65
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼69
London	Windy	▲48	▼38
Los Angeles	Showers	▲62	▼46
Manila	Sunny	▲90	▼71
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼62
Miami	Sunny	▲81	▼70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼26
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼36
Paris	Showers	▲51	▼39
Pusan	Sunny	▲51	▼36
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼52
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲47	▼30
Tokyo	Windy	▲57	▼41
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼31



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	3:40 PM	3:50 AM
Tuesday	4:28 PM	4:34 AM
Wednesday	5:16 PM	5:15 AM
Thursday	6:03 PM	5:55 AM
Friday	6:49 PM	6:33 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

SCC to get overview of USDA-RD business, energy programs

USDA Rural Development will be the guest speaker at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general monthly membership meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. Anthony Barcinas, Community & Business Program specialist, will provide an overview of Rural Development's Business and Energy Programs that are available to businesses in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Rural Development's programs available to assist businesses in the CNMI include the Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan program, the Rural Energy for America Program, the Rural Business Enterprise Grant, and the Intermediary Relending Program. Programs specifically targeted for agriculture producers include the Value-Added Producer Grant and the Small Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grant Programs.

"The time is ripe for small businesses and farmers in the CNMI to become aware of investment capital resources available," said Barcinas. "We want to assist businesses to create jobs and expand their operations by investing in materials and equipment while promoting

their success and growth."

The Chamber's general membership meeting is open to the public at a cost of \$30 for non-members (\$20/members). The buffet luncheon begins at 11:30am, and the membership meeting starts at noon at Charley's Restaurant, Pacific islands Club. The USDA workshop will be held immediately after the luncheon, starting at 1pm.

» Will conduct workshop on Rural Energy for America Program

"This workshop is an exciting opportunity for the business community to learn about the various grants and loans available to enhance local businesses," said Chamber executive director Jill Arenovski. "Hosting the USDA workshop directly after the membership meeting is convenient for attendees."

Also speaking at the Chamber's luncheon meeting is Oscar Camacho, loan manager at the Commonwealth Development Authority. Camacho will address the funding and availability of the current loan program.

"From new police cars to help developing alternative sources of energy, our community has benefited significantly from programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C.

Sablan (Ind-MP). "Mr. Barcinas and his colleague Joe Diego in Guam and the Hawaii State Director Chris Kanazawa in Hawaii are doing an excellent job improving community awareness of the programs they manage and, by doing so, helping to bring more federal funding to the Northern Mariana Islands."

In addition to the presentation to the Chamber, Barcinas will conduct a workshop on the Rural Energy for America Program in the afternoon. Rural Development is making more than \$280 million available to eligible applicants through REAP. Application deadlines vary by project type and the type of assistance requested.

Rural Development is offering grants for up to 25 percent of total project costs and loan guarantees for up to 75 percent of total project costs for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements.

Since 2009, USDA has awarded \$545 million for more than 8,800 REAP projects nationwide. This includes \$361 million in REAP grants and loans for more than 2,900 renewable energy systems. When fully operational, these systems are expected to generate more than 6 billion kilowatt hours annually—enough to power more than 5.5 million homes for a year. (USDA)



Mariana Acquisition Corporation
dba IP&E Saipan

IP&E Saipan is accepting applications for the following position:

Dispatcher

This is a regular full-time position responsible for coordinating and scheduling the delivery of petroleum products from terminal to commercial and retail receiving locations; monitoring driver locations and delivery confirmations. A qualified candidate will have at least two years' experience as a dispatcher preferably in petroleum operations; excellent safety record; understand local roadways and hazards; able to work flexible hours; possesses good communication and interpersonal skills; and must be proficient using Microsoft Excel.

To apply, please pick up an Employment Application at the IP&E Saipan office, located at the Puerto Rico Terminal Office on Industrial Drive, and submit no later than March 6, 2015

Mariana Acquisition Corporation | IP&E Saipan
PMB 1009 | P.O. Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: 670-323-5009
Fax: 670-322-0764 | Email: corporate@ipehq.com



Shell Licensee

Introducing...

Starting February 18, the U.S. Government is offering a new way to stay in the U.S.A. to aliens who are out-of-status in the C.N.M.I. It's called "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" (DACA).

With DACA, you are allowed to...

1. stay in the U.S. for three or more years without fear of deportation,
2. receive a work authorization to work legally in the U.S.,
3. attend school or college,
4. travel outside the U.S. with special permission under special emergency circumstances, AND
5. get a social security card, which allows you to open a bank account, apply for a driver's license, and much more!

You may qualify for DACA, if you...

1. entered the U.S. as a child,
2. came before you turned age 16,
3. have lived in the U.S. continuously since January 1, 2010,
4. fell "out-of-status" with immigration before June 15, 2012,
5. AND, you are now a student, high school graduate or military veteran.

To find out if YOU qualify...

Contact the Guam law firm of **Baumann, Kondas and Xu** today! BKX attorneys are experts in U.S. immigration law. And, they have successfully petitioned for DACA for many young clients under a similar program in Guam. All inquiries and applications are completely confidential.

Email: Ladd.Baumann@baumannguam.com • Email: Nelson.Xu@baumannguam.com.
Or visit: 238 Archbishop Flores St., Suite 903, DNA Bldg., Hagatna, Guam 96910.



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17th High School Mock Trial Championship



Saipan Southern High School and Marianas High School coaches greet and congratulate each other after the final round last week at the Supreme Courtroom

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Attorney General Ed Manibusan shakes hands with students after the final round of Mock Trial

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Marianas High School's lead student attorneys pose for a photo before the announcement of winners.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Saipan Southern High School student attorneys and veteran Mock Trial members pose for a photo after the final round of competition.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Mock Trial coordinator Nicole M. Torres announces the award recipients

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Tiger Lee, center, from Saipan Southern High School, receives the Best Defense Witness award flanked by his parents, teacher, and attorney coaches.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Teacher coaches and student members of the Rota Mock Trial team pose for a photo

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Rota student Glengela Guiang, center, poses for a photo with her attorney coaches and teacher coaches after being named as the Best Prosecution Witness

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II



Marianas High School Mock Trial team members, coaches, and officials pose for a photo after receiving the Supreme Court Professionalism Award and being named as the competition's runner-up.

THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

PACIFIC CENTURY FELLOWS

PROGRAM

Marianas Chapter

Be part of the solution. Become a Fellow.

The PCF Marianas Chapter is a non-profit, leadership development program that runs for one year incorporating periodic sessions covering current issues facing the CNMI.

Bright minds brought together can make a world of difference. With the challenges we face in our CNMI, there has never been a greater need for leaders to start working better together.

IMPORTANT DATES:

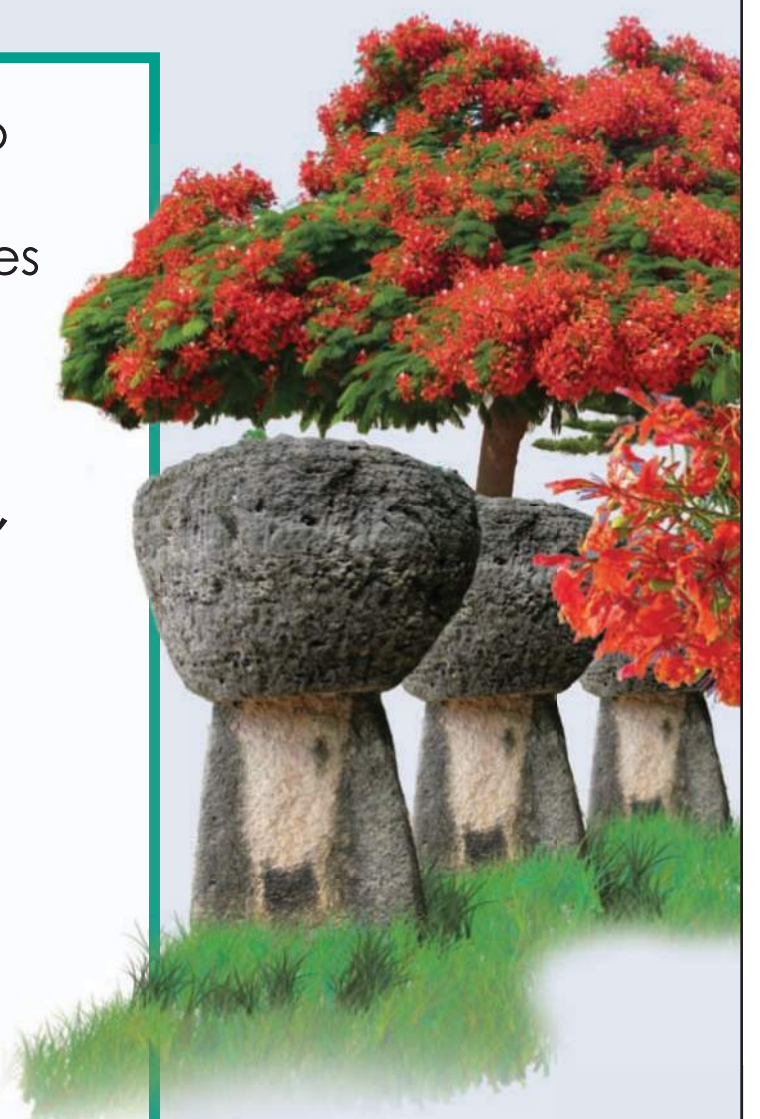
- **March 6th:** Application deadline (**extended**)
- **March 14th:** Selection Saturday (Mandatory)
- **March 28th - 29th:** Mandatory Weekend Retreat

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be between the ages of 25-45
- Submit completed application
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation
- Must be able to attend weekend retreat and meet minimum attendance requirement.

A tuition fee is assessed following selection to cover fellowship expenses for the entire year. Financial assistance is available, see website for details.

To request an application or for more information, please visit our website at **www.pcf-marianas.com** or contact Maggie Sablan or Merlie Tolentino at 234-0609 ext 117/118 or send an email to administrator@pcf-marianas.com.



“Fellows will be in an environment that will foster open mindedness, creativity and constructive problem solving... Fellows will be better able to lead, not only in their respective industries, but in the bigger picture of the communities they serve and the islands in which they live.”

Busines

Greece will not seek another bailout, prime minister says

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece won't seek a third bailout deal, the prime minister said Saturday, having succeeded in separating the loan agreement from the "disastrous" austerity conditions imposed with the willing cooperation of previous governments.

Alexis Tsipras spoke Saturday at the start of a two-day meeting of his party's central committee. The Syriza committee will elect a new general secretary and members of the political secretariat, replacing those members who were elected to Parliament in the January election.

Tsipras warned that although a "difficult battle in a long and difficult war" was won with the loan extension, difficulties lie ahead. And he recounted, for the benefit of the party member-

ship, what transpired in the negotiations that led to the conditional loan extension agreement in the Eurogroup.

"We said ... many noes in the past few days," despite the sometimes unbearable pressure and blackmail, Tsipras told the party members.

"We joined the battle in Europe with every step undermined," claimed Tsipras. "The most aggressive European conservative forces, in cooperation with the (ex-Premier Antonis) Samaras government, had sprung up a trap to derail us before we had even governed."

Tsipras said he was referring to the extension of the second bailout agreement by only two months; a credit crunch; an empty treasury and banks "on the edge" of illiquidity; and

commitments on further tough austerity measures.

"They had everything set up to shipwreck us ... and the country," Tsipras said.

The prime minister singled out Spain and Portugal as leaders of "an axis of forces" that "for obvious political reasons were trying to lead the negotiation to the edge of the precipice, taking the risk of developments spiraling out of control, so that they could avoid internal political risk."

"Their plan was, and remains, the rapid wear and tear of our government, its overthrow, or (alternatively) its unconditional surrender before the government's actions begin bearing fruit and before the Greek example influences...other countries. And, especially, before elections in Spain," Tsipras said.

As tastes change, big food makers try hipster guises

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP)—At a taco shop in Southern California, milkshakes are served in mason jars and a chalkboard menu lists "The 1%er" made with lobster meat.

The logo is a pink skull and instead of buzzers, customers are given license plates so servers can identify them when bringing out orders.

Nowhere is it evident that the U.S. Taco Co. is an outpost of a chain better known for cheesy gut bombs: Taco Bell.

Major companies are testing whether it would pay to tuck away their world famous logos in favor of more hipster guises: PepsiCo, for instance, introduced a craft soda called Caleb's last year and McDonald's opened a cafe that lists lentils and eggplant on its menu. The stealth efforts reflect the pressures on the country's biggest food makers, which are contending with the surging popularity of smaller brands that po-

sition themselves as decidedly less corporate.

For big food companies, the low-key efforts are a way feel out changing tastes and cozy up to new customers, particularly those in their 20s and 30s. Among that age group, marketing experts say there's a growing preference for qualities like "real" and "authentic." Additionally, millennials aren't as impressed by big brands when it comes to food, and instead take pride in discovering and sharing new places and products with friends on social media networks.

As such, Allen Adamson of Landor Associates, a brand consulting firm, said companies should keep the images for their latest efforts smaller and more niche: "You don't want to scream from the mountain top that you're Pepsi."

Unlike Pepsi cola—which has suffered sales declines since 1998, according to Beverage Digest—PepsiCo's Caleb's

Kola comes in a glass bottle and is sweetened with cane sugar instead of high-fructose corn syrup.

There are no signs the drink is from the maker of Mountain Dew and Gatorade, and the bottles bear the words "Honor In Craft."

Nick Hammit, who heads Caleb's Kola at PepsiCo, said Caleb's was the creation of a group of "Kola Nuts" at the company who were passionate about making a cola that "takes pride in every little aspect."

McDonald's also decided not to use its name recognition when it opened The Corner late last year.

The restaurant in Australia has a minimalist white exterior and serves dishes like Moroccan roast chicken, chipotle pulled pork and lentil and eggplant salad. The only sign it's owned by McDonald's is the "McCafe" in small print at the bottom of the restaurant logo.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Striking Danish cabin crew forces SAS to cancel 30 flights

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Scandinavian Airlines says some 30 flights out of Copenhagen have been canceled after members of a Danish cabin crew union walked out to protest the carrier's plan to move 147 employees to a domestic airline that SAS acquired last year. Group spokeswoman Trine Kromann-Mikkelsen says the strike was "illegal," adding SAS canceled 60 flights Friday when the walkout started. Kromann-Mikkelsen could not immediately confirm that dozens of SAS-operated flights to Copenhagen also were canceled Sat-

urday. Only European flights were affected. According to the union, the staff transferred to Danish airline Cimber Air that SAS acquired in December will earn less. Facing stiff competition from budget airlines and high expenses, SAS embarked on a wide restructuring plan in November 2012.

China's central bank cuts rates again to boost economy

BEIJING (AP)—China's central bank cut interest rates for the second time in three months Saturday, adding to signs the country's leaders are worried the economic slowdown is deepening too sharply. The People's Bank of China an-

nounced a rate cut on one-year loans by commercial banks by 0.25 percentage point to 5.35 percent. The interest rate paid on a one-year deposit was lowered by 0.25 point to 2.50 percent. Rates were last cut on Nov. 22. The new rates take effect Sunday. Last year, China's economic growth fell to 7.4 percent—the lowest since 1990. It is expected to decline further this year, and a steep economic decline can raise the risk of politically dangerous job losses. The latest round of cuts follow a string of tax reductions and other measures aimed at propping up growth. The government cut business taxes last week and has announced a pay hike for civil servants.

Nation

Tiny Missouri town mourns after gunman kills seven, then himself

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Residents of a small southern Missouri town struggled to come to grips with the knowledge that one of their own had killed seven people in a spasm of violence that ended when the gunman shot himself to death on a rural county road.

Joseph Jesse Aldridge, 36, went to four homes in the unincorporated town of Tyrone in Texas County late Thursday, killing relatives and neighbors but sparing two teenagers. He was later found dead in a vehicle in neighboring Shannon County, about 25 miles away.

Aldridge's 74-year-old mother, Alice, was found dead in a home she shared with her son as officers went door-to-door to search for other victims. An autopsy performed Saturday found she died of natural causes, Texas County Coroner Tom Whitaker said. Alice Al-

dridge had a history of breast cancer and had lung cancer, said Whitaker, adding investigators assumed she was not a victim of violence but wanted to be "100 percent" sure.

Autopsies were not performed on the other victims, who all lived in Tyrone, not much more than a spot on the map about 40 miles north of the Arkansas border.

"Since the shooter killed himself, and we're certain he is the shooter and the weapon he killed himself with, the ammunition he used, all match the victims, the prosecuting attorney felt there was no need for autopsies," Whitaker said. "We knew how they died."

Texas County Sheriff James Sigman on Saturday identified three of the victims as Darrell Dean Shriver, 68; his 46-year-old son, Carey Dean Shriver, and Carey's wife, Valirea

8 dead in slayings

Seven people were found dead in four homes in Tyrone, Mo., on Friday. The gunman was discovered in a neighboring county, dead of an apparent suicide.



Source: AP
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Love Shriver, 44. The name of a 67-year-old woman who was injured was not released. She was being treated at a Springfield hospital.

Upstate New York towns consider seceding to Pennsylvania

CONKLIN, N.Y. (AP)—Plenty of people leave New York state but in a job-hungry stretch of upstate, folks talk about staying put and seceding to Pennsylvania.

Local officials stung by a recent decision to ban natural gas fracking have raised the idea of redrawing the Keystone State's border. Even though they don't expect it to happen, members of the Upstate New York Towns Association hope the specter of secession will result in something—anything—good for a struggling part of the state peering enviously over the state line.

"It's not like we were looking across the border into Mexico or even looking across the border at Canada," said

Candor supervisor Bob Riggs, whose rural town is one of about 15 in the association. "We're looking across the border into the United States, and it's very different."

The Southern Tier sits atop the same gas-rich Marcellus Shale formation that has allowed Pennsylvania and other states to ride the fracking boom. In December, the Cuomo administration said it planned to ban hydraulic fracturing based on potential health risks and overstated economic benefits.

A poll this year found statewide support for Cuomo's decision, but many in this economically struggling area saw it as another instance of New York City's liberal desires

trumping upstate needs. Adding salt to the wound: New York state rejected two Southern Tier casino applicants the same day, though the Southern Tier bidding process was reopened Friday.

With its 8.4 million people, its powerhouse financial sector and its global glamour, New York City dominates the state of 19.65 million. It also accounts for a disproportionately high share of the state's tax revenue.

Most secession movements in New York state are fueled by the cultural differences between the big city and less crowded upstate areas closer in spirit to New England or the Midwest: Consider that Buffalo is closer to Cleveland than Manhattan.

Churches, synagogues, mosques bear tough New England winter

BOSTON (AP)—Religious leaders in snowbound New England are beginning to ask themselves how on Earth their houses of worship will make ends meet after all these acts of God.

Churches, synagogues and mosques report attendance is down at services, as poorly timed winter storms have hit on or close to days of worship. And getting the faithful to come out is challenging, with limited parking and treacherously icy sidewalks plaguing the region.

For many places of worship, that has meant donations are drying up just as costs for snow removal, heating and maintenances are soaring.

"You have this perfect storm of people not being able to go to worship and so not bring-

ing in offerings, combined with much higher than usual costs," says Cindy Kohlmann, who works with Presbyterian churches in Greater Boston and northern New England.

She says the financial toll could force some of the roughly 60 Presbyterian congregations in the region to close. The churches have collectively requested at least \$300,000 from the national church's disaster relief fund to help cover their bills.

At the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Boston, the Rev. Thomas Domurat says he will hold two collections at Sunday Masses in an effort to gather more donations for snow expenses.

Mazen Duwaji, executive director at the Islamic Council of New England, says the

mosque he attends in Sharon, Massachusetts, is hoping to make up its shortfalls during its annual fundraiser in March.

A number of religious leaders say donations are not down as drastically as they could be, given that attendance has dipped anywhere from 15 to 50 percent. Online donations increasingly are a reliable revenue source, helping many weather the lean attendance months.

But as the winter weather wears on, expenses are piling up.

At Epworth United Methodist Church in Worcester, the Rev. Patricia Miller Fernandes is waiting to see what the final bill will be after rooftop ice loosened bricks and mortar, sending building materials crashing to the ground and leaving a gaping hole in the roof.



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Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NMHC RFP 2015-002

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

“ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN OF THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION DRAWINGS”

The Acting Chairman of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (“NMHC”), a subsidiary public corporation of the Commonwealth Development Authority (“CDA”), a public corporation of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting sealed proposals for the DESIGN OF THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION DRAWINGS.

Proposal packets will be available on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on Tuesday, March 03, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Any Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 234-9021, no later than Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed enveloped marked/stamped “Confidential” and labeled “**NMHC RFP 2015-002**”, to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., Friday, March 13, 2015.**

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its respective program Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to NMHC, which functions as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for the Commonwealth.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/Tom Glenn Quitugua
Acting Chairman
Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director
Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-011

AGINGAN WWTP TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of Agingan WWTP transformer in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of removal of existing transformer, installation and connection of new three-phase pad-mounted compartment transformer with accessories and components to riser pole, installation of bollards and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project in contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-15-011, Agingan WWTP Transformer Replacement Project**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 20, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Manager, Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp



AMENDED NOTICE

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by Monday, April 06, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after April 06, 2015, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-15-007

CUC POWER PLANT BUILDING LOWER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT CUC POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A mandatory pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2015** at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan. All potential proposers are required to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February, 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC RFP -15- 007 CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than March 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).**

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <https://marianaslabor.net/>.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to CUC. The proposal bond shall be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The payment and performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. The bond shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Plant Manager via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Asia

Prince William evokes Diana memories on first Japan trip



Britain's Prince William, right, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, play with children as they visit Smile Kids Park playground in Motomiya city, Japan's northeastern prefecture of Fukushima, Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015.

By YURI KAGEYAMA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KORIYAMA, Japan (AP)—Britain's Prince William is spending the latter half of his four-day stay in Japan, starting Saturday, in the country's tsunami-ravaged northeast, a visit certain to draw global attention to the stories of survival and continuing suffering in the region.

The March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, which killed nearly 19,000 people, left swaths of the northeastern Japanese coastline destroyed. Four years later, tens of thousands of people are still living in temporary housing. Adding to the hardship is a nuclear catastrophe that has created a no-go zone around the Fukushima atomic plant.

During his stay in Tokyo, which began Thursday, William visited with the cast of a samurai TV show, performed a good-luck sake-barrel-breaking ceremony at a shopping mall and had tea with Japan's crown prince. He is scheduled to leave for China on Sunday.

Some highlights from William's trip:

DIANA'S FIRST-BORN SON

Memories of William's mother, who died in 1997, are everywhere. The media in Japan, a culture that traditionally values male heirs, have been referring to the prince as "Diana's first-born son," as though that was more important than his being second in line to the throne.

After William on Friday laid a wreath at a grave for Commonwealth servicemen who

died while held as prisoners of war in Japan, he signed a visitors' book. Next to the book was a framed photo of his mother laying a wreath at the same cemetery when she visited in 1995. Next to the picture were written the words: "May she rest in peace."

The master who performed the ancient art of tea ceremony for William in a Tokyo garden had done the same for Diana, and recalled how she loved the green tea.

William's trip to Japan's tsunami-devastated northeastern region, relatively unusual for a visiting foreign dignitary, follows in the path of his mother's humanitarian efforts.

BRAVING RADIATION

On Saturday, William visited with children in a playground in Fukushima, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) west of the meltdown-stricken nuclear reactors. The children were being allowed to play outdoors for the first time recently. Previously, radiation levels had been too high for children, who are more susceptible to the health risks of radiation.

Children scurried around William. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe played host, and they all juggled balls at Smile Kids Park playground. Abe has been eager to spread the message that the nuclear disaster has been brought under control, although some say problems remain with contamination from radiation and continuing leaks at the reactors.

Local growers and fishermen have complained of what is called "fuhyou" damage, which means caused by false rumors

or gossip. Many people remain afraid of eating Fukushima-grown products.

REVVING IT UP

Nothing speaks of British greatness more than cars. And so shiny Aston Martin vehicles were on display for William's visit Saturday to a Tokyo shopping complex.

Greeted by throngs of people, some shrieking "William!" he climbed into one of the cars alongside Aston Martin Chief Executive Andy Palmer and revved the engine into a loud roar.

On Friday evening, at a banquet in honor of William at the British Embassy in Tokyo, a sumo wrestler "yokozuna," or grand champion, who ranks at the top of the traditional sport of burly fighters, arrived in style - in a Bentley. Never mind that Volkswagen AG of Germany owns Bentley. It's still an icon of British auto luxury.

SAMURAI AND TSUNAMI

Also Saturday, William visited with the cast of a samurai drama show at Tokyo TV broadcaster NHK and tried on the glittering helmet and red kimono coat of a shogun samurai. He also watched three geisha actresses dance.

"How do I look?" he asked after looking at himself in the mirror. "I feel ready for action."

The day before, at another shopping complex in Tokyo, William acknowledged what he had aspired to be growing up: an astronaut, a policeman or a fire-breather. He is set to start his job as an air-ambulance pilot this summer.

said Saturday.

Lee, who is being treated for severe pneumonia, remains sedated and on mechanical ventilation in the ICU at Singapore General Hospital, and is con-

tinuing with his antibiotics, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. It said his "condition has improved slightly."

Lee was admitted to Singapore General on Feb. 5.

Singapore founding father Lee's condition improves slightly

SINGAPORE (AP)—The condition of Singapore's 91-year-old founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, has improved slightly as he remains on life support in intensive care, the government

World

Nemtsov a possible 'sacrificial victim'

MOSCOW (AP)—Maybe it was Islamic extremists who killed Boris Nemtsov. Or someone offended by his love life. Or agents of a Western power that will stop at nothing to disfigure President Vladimir Putin's image and drive him from power.

Russian investigators, politicians and political commentators on state television on Saturday covered much ground in looking for the reason Nemtsov was gunned down in the heart of Moscow, but they sidestepped one possibility—that he was murdered for his relentless opposition to Putin.

Nemtsov, a 55-year-old former deputy prime minister and leading Russian liberal political figure for the past two decades, was gunned down shortly before midnight Friday as he walked across a bridge near the Kremlin with a female companion.

The killing came just hours after a radio interview in which he called on Moscow residents to join an opposition rally on Sunday to protest Putin's handling of the economic crisis and his "mad, aggressive and deadly policy of war against Ukraine."

After his death, organizers canceled the rally and instead called for a demonstration to mourn him on Sunday in central Moscow. The city gave quick approval, in contrast to its usual slow and grudging permission for opposition rallies.

The mourning march could serve to galvanize the beleaguered and marginalized opposition, or it could prove to be a brief catharsis after which emotions dissipate. Popular support for Putin has remained above 80 percent in recent months, despite the severe



People light candles in memory of Boris Nemtsov, seen behind, at the monument of political prisoners 'Solovetsky Stone' in central St. Petersburg, Russia, Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015.

economic recession and soaring inflation.

Russia's leading investigative agency said it was looking into several possible motives for the killing.

The first possibility, the Investigative Committee said, was that the murder was aimed at destabilizing the political situation in the country and Nemtsov was a "sacrificial victim for those who do not shun any method for achieving their political goals."

This suggestion echoed comments by Putin's spokesman and other Russian politicians that the attack was a "provocation" against the state.

The term "sacrificial victim" was also the same one Putin used three years ago when he warned that his political opponents were planning to kill one of their own and then blame it on his government.

The investigators said they also were considering whether there was "personal enmity" toward Nemtsov in his domestic life. State-controlled and Kremlin-friendly TV gave considerable attention to Nemtsov's companion, identi-

fying her as a Ukrainian model 30 years his junior and showing photos of her in alluring poses. The Investigative Committee said the pair was headed for Nemtsov's apartment.

The agency also listed the possibility that the killing was carried out by Islamic extremists angered by Nemtsov's position on the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris or was connected to the Ukraine conflict, where Russia-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian forces since last April.

Nemtsov was working on a report presenting evidence that he believed proved Russia was directly involved in the Ukraine conflict, despite official denials that it has supplied the separatists with troops and sophisticated weapons.

In a previous report on corruption released before the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Nemtsov alleged that Russian officials and businessmen had stolen up to \$30 billion during the preparations for the games. He also has exposed alleged corruption in state gas company Gazprom.

Egyptian court declares Hamas a 'terrorist organization'

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian court declared Hamas a "terrorist organization" on Saturday, further isolating the blockaded rulers of the Gaza Strip once openly welcomed by the country's toppled Islamist-dominated government.

The ruling is unlikely to have any immediate effect on Hamas, still reeling from last summer's war with Israel and choked by an Israeli-Egyptian blockade set up in 2007. Moussa Abu Marzouk, Hamas' No. 2 leader, is based in Cairo and is receiving medical treatment there, members of the group say.

The move underlines Egypt's increasing hostility to Hamas, which the court blamed for violence in the country's restive Sinai Peninsula. The secretive movement, founded in Gaza in 1987 as an offshoot of the region's Egyptian-originated Muslim Brotherhood, faces a growing cash crunch and has yet to lay out a strategy to extract Gaza from its increasingly dire situation.

any doubt that the movement has committed acts of sabotage, assassinations and the killing of innocent civilians and members of the armed forces and police in Egypt," the court wrote, according to state news agency MENA.

"There is no doubt that Hamas is being pushed into the corner further and further," said Mkhaimar Abu Sada, a political science professor at Gaza's Al Azhar University. Hamas' relationship with Cairo has "reached a point of no return" and is unlikely to be salvaged, he said.

The ruling Saturday by Judge Mohamed el-Sayed of the Court For Urgent Matters said Hamas had targeted both civilians and security forces inside the Sinai Peninsula, and that the group aimed to harm the country. Sinai has been under increasing attack by extremists since the Egyptian military ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

"It has been proven without

The ruling said that Hamas' fighters had used heavy weapons against the army, and that the group was colluding with the Muslim Brotherhood, which Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has described as the root of extremism. Morsi belonged to the Brotherhood.

"It has been also ascertained with documents that (Hamas) has carried out bombings that have taken lives and destroyed institutions and targeted civilians and the armed forces personnel," the ruling said. "This movement works for the interests of the terrorist Brotherhood organization."



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP15-GOV-037



Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The project Scope of Work will be available on or after **February 16, 2015** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **February 27, 2015** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-305. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked “**Construction Management/Contract Compliance**”, **RFP15-GOV-037**. One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m., March 18, 2015 (CNMI local time)**.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

ELOY S. INOS
Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be \$20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS

WATER TASK FORCE

IFB15-GOV-040

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce and CIP-CDA (PL 17-90). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Construction of approximately 2,290 LF of 12-inch PVC, 9,560 LF of 8-inch PVC, and 2,540 LF of 6" PVC waterlines, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, blow-off valves, fittings and appurtenances.
- Install new service laterals and connect to existing water meter locations.
- Install gate valves, fittings, and connections to existing water mains at various locations.
- Abandon in-place of old PVC pipe.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving and concrete pavements.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Removal of temporary facilities and controls.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after February 23, 2015 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on March 6, 2015, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on March 5, 2015.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB15-GOV-040". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time March 25, 2015. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time March 25, 2015, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 25, 2015, and must be received no later than April 6, 2015. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, April 7, 2015. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on March 25, 2015.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Eloy S. Inos, Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL
On the island of TINIAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Tinian which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms; and
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be \$16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Health & Fitness

Healthy aging made simple: Tips from a geriatrician

By MARTHA ROSS
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

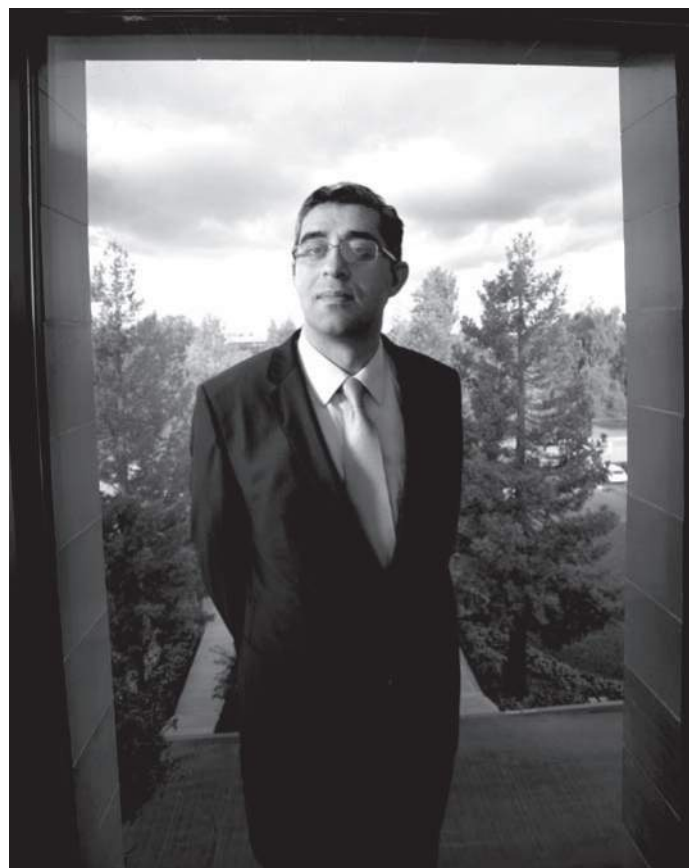
SAN JOSE, Calif.—When geriatrician Mehrdad Ayati first met Lee Katz in 2011, he encountered yet another patient—and her spouse—who were in despair over the conflicting and contradictory information they received in her care.

The Menlo Park woman was in a downward spiral of multiple chronic conditions that would lead to her death in April 2013 at age 84.

But the different specialists who rotated in and out of her case made things worse, with mix-ups and questionable interventions that took her in and out of the hospital and added to her suffering, husband Martin Katz says.

“They didn’t know what one another was doing,” says Katz, who is a retired pharmaceutical researcher and executive. “Then Dr. Ayati appeared on the scene. He started looking at the entire patient, her personal and social history, all her medical problems.”

Ayati coordinated Lee Katz’s care and the information coming at them from different directions.



BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS

Dr. Mehrdad Ayati poses for a portrait on Nov. 13, 2014 near his office in Palo Alto, Calif. Dr. Ayati’s new book, “Paths to Healthy Aging,” is a step-by-step guide for older people on how to age in a healthy way.

“He put it all together,” Katz says.

What Ayati did for Lee Katz, he is now doing for everyone in

his new book, “Paths to Healthy Aging.” This “guidebook,” as Ayati calls it, is designed as a concise overview of the basic

Tips for Healthy Aging

Below are prescriptions for mental and physical health from Stanford geriatrician Mehrdad Ayati in his book “Paths to Healthy Aging.”

Avoid trendy and drastic diets or exercise programs, especially rigorous programs you won’t stick to.

Vitamins aren’t necessary unless a doctor identifies a deficiency, and be wary of nutritional supplements. You can generally get all your nutrients through a balanced diet of mostly whole, organic foods; limit your intake of canned, frozen or instant foods, as well as alcohol and caffeine.

Find a hobby, or sign up for a class. Trying a new subject or activity can challenge you mentally and physically.

Don’t just hang out with seniors; find ways to spend time with people of all ages.

Keep in touch with your network of friends.

Find a geriatrician. While there is a shortage of geriatricians, you won’t necessarily have to see one often. This specialist will offer care that is comprehensive and focuses on prevention.

Mehrdad Ayati’s “Paths to Healthy Aging” is available at www.pathstohealthyaging.com.

ways people can improve their physical and mental health and enjoy life as they age.

Ayati is an assistant professor at the Stanford School of Medicine and treats geriatric patients at the Stanford Medical Center and the Veteran’s Administration hospital in Palo Alto. He specializes in providing comprehensive care with a focus on prevention.

With his wife and co-author, Arezou Azarani, who has a Ph.D. in physiology, he synthesizes his experience and the latest research on nutrition, exercise and geriatric medicine into a book that emphasizes healthy lifestyle choices.

Ayati says those choices can be just as important as cutting edge medicine in fending off many common complaints, from high blood pressure to sleep disorders, from depression to frailty. These choices include eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, being socially involved, and pursuing creative, stimulating activities. Ayati also is a fan of keeping things simple and affordable when it comes to eating better and exercising.

People don’t need to join expensive gyms or start a strenuous program, he says.

“Physical health is achieved by persistent and enjoyable workouts,” he says.

Ayati’s book similarly tries to keep things simple with how it uses concise explanations and short chapters to acquaint people with key concepts.

“There is so much information out there, but it’s hard to know which information is valid,” Ayati says. “My goal is to simplify the journey.”

Ayati loves working with older patients, in part because he was born and raised in Iran, where the culture reveres its elders.

“They are considered very sage, are highly respected and have a central position in the family and their community,” Ayati says. “Gray hair is con-

sidered an asset, and the day you get your first gray hair, you don’t dye it—you brag about it.”

Unfortunately, he works in a specialty facing a shortage of experienced practitioners. About 80 percent of adults 65 and older require care for chronic conditions. To meet their needs, the United States would need about 17,000 more geriatricians, according to the American Geriatrics Society.

When students show an interest in geriatrics, Ayati gives them all the encouragement he can. One thing he especially likes about geriatrics is that doctors are encouraged to spend much more than just 10 minutes with patients, who typically have a complex set of medical issues.

For Ayati, some of that time is spent just talking to patients and learning their work and family history and how they live.

“I learn a lot from my geriatric patients,” he says.

Ayati uses that same conversational approach in his book to correct misconceptions, including his view that people should stay away from nutritional and vitamin supplements unless a doctor has found a serious deficiency that needs to be addressed. Taking too much vitamin D, for example, can be toxic, he says. Generally, people can get all the nutrients they need by eating a balanced diet.

Ayati devotes a chapter to the problem of over medication, because he has seen too many patients suffering the ill effects of taking drugs they don’t need.

Sometimes misdiagnosis can lead to the “drug cascade syndrome,” where doctors pile on medications to treat the side effects of other medications.

He recalls one patient who ended up in a skilled nursing facility after falling at home and breaking his hip. This downward spiral started sometime earlier when the man

went to see his primary care doctor for depression.

The doctor prescribed antidepressants, but failed to get to the root cause of the depression. The man had restless leg syndrome, which caused him to lose sleep and go through his days exhausted, unable to concentrate or remember things.

The anti-depressants didn’t alleviate his depression. They only made his leg cramps worse, so he lost more sleep. He became disoriented and fell, breaking his hip. By weaning him off the anti-depressants and treating the restless leg syndrome, Ayati was able to help the man fully recover from both his hip injury and his depression.

The last chapter of Ayati’s book offers tips on how to find a geriatrician, which he knows can be a daunting task. He points out that most patients don’t need to see a geriatrician too often, sometimes just once a year.

After his wife died, Martin Katz, 87, signed Ayati as his geriatrician. The two have also become friends; Katz endorsed Ayati’s book and its tips for healthy aging.

Katz says he is in excellent health and admits he is “genetically blessed.” Despite his background in pharmaceuticals, Katz shares Ayati’s belief that less is better when it comes to drugs.

Katz may be one of Ayati’s model patients, eating right, exercising regularly and staying active. Katz belongs to two senior centers that provide wonderful “social interaction, friends and activities.”

Most importantly, he has “an avocation.” He has taken up sculpting, and this artistic endeavor keeps him physically active, challenges him mentally and constantly introduces him to new people.

He began learning to sculpt in the early 1990s, even before he retired. He had never thought of himself as artistically inclined; he was just curious. Many workshops and classes later, he has launched a second career as a professional artist.

“I dreaded seeing those retired guys following their wives around at the supermarket,” he says.

In late October, he unveiled his newest bronze work, “Kaddish,” at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills.

Long before meeting Ayati, he put into practice one of Ayati’s favorite tips: He signs up for classes.

“My mantra is, if you don’t join a class, you’re not going to do it,” Katz says. “I tend to be a Type A, highly motivated, but with all that self-motivation, if I’m not signed up for a class, and unless it’s on my calendar for 9 a.m. Thursday, I’m not going to do it.”

Personal Trainer

What makes seniors run

Master runners – people in their 60s or older – often have as much endurance as younger people with better cardiovascular fitness.

Theory: Masters have different muscle structure than the youngsters they run with

Researchers took biopsy samples from the gastrocnemius muscles of two groups

Gastrocnemius

Eight masters
(age 63 or older)

Eight young runners
(average age 26)

10k

The two groups were matched in their running ability

The groups compared

Cardio capacity (VO2max)

Masters’ was 11 percent lower than young runners’

Muscle fiber type

Both groups had mostly Type 1 (slow twitch) and little Type 2 (fast twitch)

Enzymes related to muscle energy use

24 percent to 31 percent higher in the masters

Enzymes related to muscle fatigue

46 percent lower in masters

Conclusion: Masters have unusually efficient leg muscles, and that may give them their running ability

Source: Washington University School of Medicine Applied Physiology Section
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

As Spock, Leonard Nimoy gave a character enduring life

NEW YORK (AP)—It's no exaggeration to say Leonard Nimoy was perfect for the role that defined his career. His lean, almost sepulchral frame seemed otherworldly. His long, solemn face reflected wisdom summoned from somewhere deep within.

Calm reassurance, devotion to cool logic, a can-do guy who could cut through the clutter—that was Mr. Spock, the Vulcan half-breed Nimoy played so indelibly on "Star Trek." And it seemed to come naturally. The message Nimoy and his character delivered as one: Anything is possible, or at least worth giving a shot. Just put your mind to it and believe.

That was the message Nimoy left his true believers with his death Friday at 83.

In its original run, "Star Trek" battled low ratings and was can-

celled after just three seasons. But by then, Spock had taken firm root in the culture, and in no small part thanks to Nimoy. For him, the role of Spock remained the through-line in a varied career, as much a guiding force for him as it was for the millions of fans of his enduring character. "To boldly go..." declared the title sequence of each "Star Trek" episode. For Spock, the operative phrase would have been "to calmly go, still inner demons and get the job done."

But if Nimoy was perfect for the job at hand on "Star Trek," his timing as he stepped into the role of his life was no less spot-on. The world, without knowing it, was waiting for Spock.

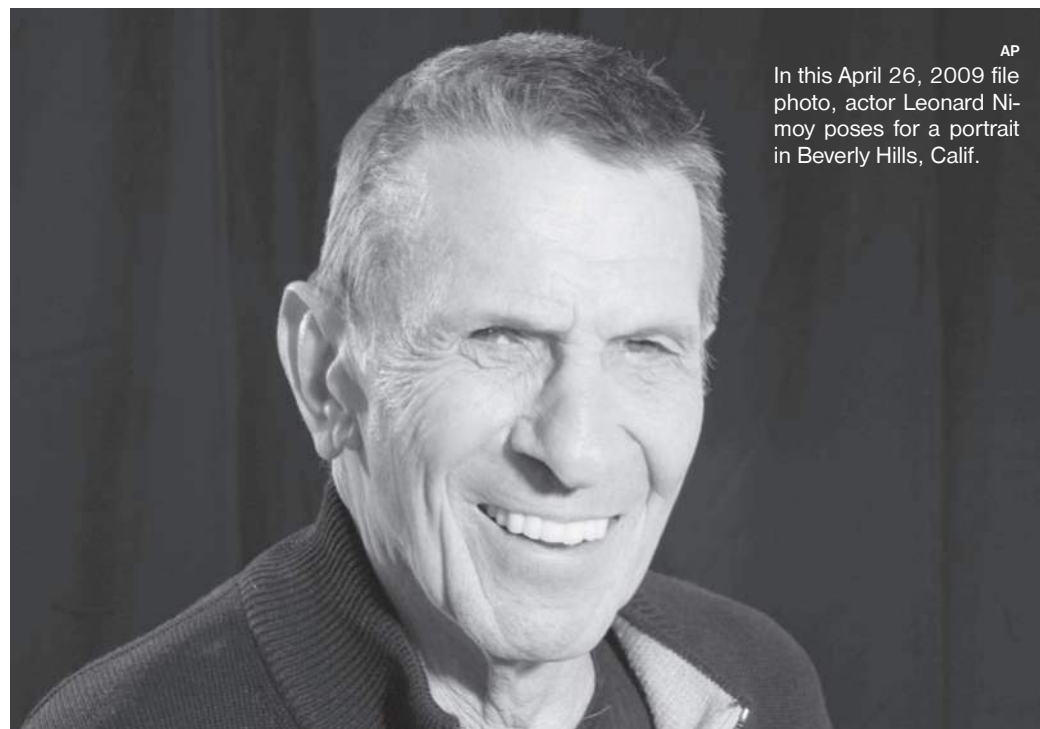
Spock posed a meaningful contrast to the era he was born into—which is to say, not the 23rd century, when "Star Trek" was set, but the hurly-burly of

1966, when it premiered.

This was a time of high emotions, of grand dreams and raw outrage. Many people of that day drew inspiration from society's new full-throatedness. Even so, Spock stood as a cautionary note against rallying cries like "say you want a revolution" or "tune in, turn on, drop out." Spock was fully tuned in, but he would never drop out, never give up self-control.

Spock, like "Star Trek," was born into an era before "modern" became an old-fashioned word, when the future seemed limitless in what it had to offer. Back then, people still respected science, not least for how it was putting American heroes into space. (The series ended its run just six weeks after man first walked on the moon.)

But soon enough, science



AP
In this April 26, 2009 file photo, actor Leonard Nimoy poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

would become suspect, increasingly regarded as an agent of

destruction, not of glorious progress.

Computers, once seen as wondrous black boxes that could be trained to do anything, began to be thought of with mistrust. (HAL, the murderous computer that commandeered the spacecraft in the epic sci-fi film "2001: A Space Odyssey," came just two years after "Star Trek" first aired in 1968.)

Nearly five decades later, computers are everyone's constant companion, even as they're locked in a power struggle with their human masters. Emotions run amok in the

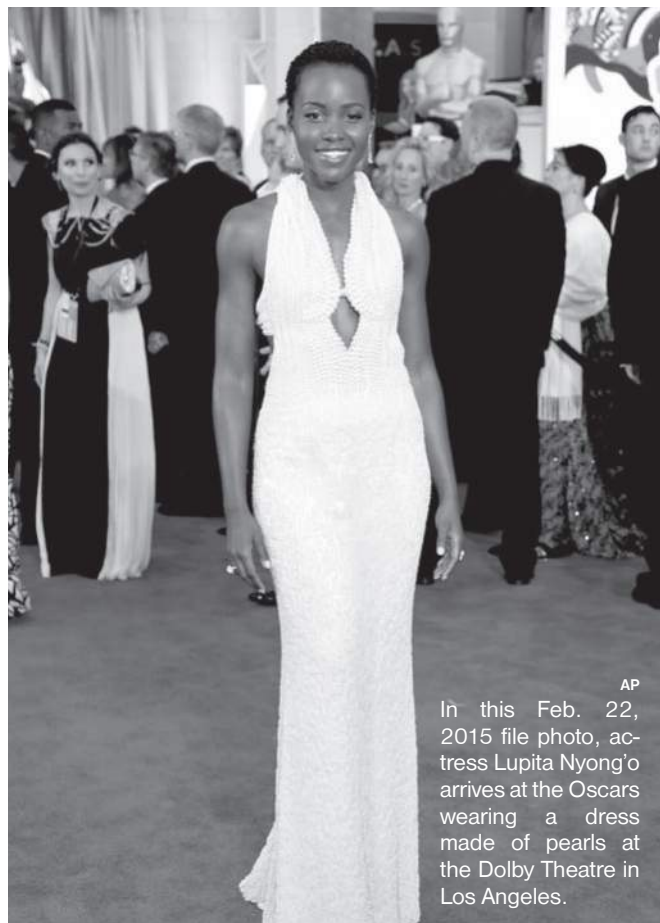
current day, while science, in some quarters, is derided not as a product of reason but as bunk or propaganda.

This is a world Spock wouldn't recognize or, even with his logical supremacy, comprehend.

And yet his popularity has never flagged, nor has the public's love for Nimoy, the human who brought Spock to life.

Until the end, Leonard Nimoy stayed true to the Vulcan credo "Live Long and Prosper." Thanks to him, who for so long did so much to keep the faith, Mr. Spock will live forever.

Dress that 'greatly resembles' stolen Nyong'o gown found



AP
In this Feb. 22, 2015 file photo, actress Lupita Nyong'o arrives at the Oscars wearing a dress made of pearls at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A white dress that strongly resembles the custom gown taken from Lupita Nyong'o's hotel room earlier this week turned up Friday under a bathroom sink in the same hotel, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's official said.

The dress found at a West Hollywood hotel "greatly resembles" the pearl-adorned Calvin Klein Collection by Francisco Costa dress the actress wore to Sunday's Academy Awards, sheriff's spokeswoman Nicole Nishida said.

Detectives were trying to verify whether the recovered dress is the same one Nyong'o wore, she said.

One of the actress' representatives reported the dress was stolen from her room at the London Hotel late Wednesday.

Authorities placed its value at \$150,000, although experts say it could have fetched more on the black market.

Women's Wear Daily reported that the dress was made of 6,000 crystal pearls on silk lame and

that its value was undetermined.

In a statement to Women's Wear Daily, Costa said everyone at Calvin Klein was thrilled to learn that the dress may have been found.

"Once it's returned to us, we will be able to have the dress restored and archived, as it now represents an important moment for the brand," Costa said in his statement.

The recovery of the dress was first reported by TMZ.com, which said that a person claiming to have taken the gown gave the celebrity website information about where to find the dress.

Detectives found it in a black garment bag stashed underneath the bathroom counter.

Nyong'o won an Oscar in 2014 for her role in "Twelve Years a Slave" and was a presenter at Sunday's ceremony.

"I'm happy that it has been potentially recovered," Nyong'o said in the statement to Women's Wear Daily. "It's a timeless and priceless piece of art."

A house is worth having only if it feels like home

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 and my husband is 27. We've been married for two years. Since our wedding, I have felt an overwhelming amount of pressure to "settle down and buy a house."

One friend's boyfriend recently bought a house. She lives with him. Every time we get together she brags about how important it is to buy a house and not "waste money" by renting an apartment.

My husband and I are happy renting because it allows us the money to travel and experience life together. The thought of being tied down to a mortgage at 23 years old for the next 30 years doesn't sit well with me. I am new in my career and have no idea where it may take me.

I understand that buying a house is a good investment. I often feel as if we are the "minority," as it seems everyone is rushing to settle down, have children, buy a house, etc.

Is it wrong that we would rather wait, enjoy ourselves traveling and doing what we like to do, and then follow the status quo and sign a mortgage that will tie us down for the next 30 years?

FEELING PRESSURED IN MARYLAND

DEAR PRESSURED: Have you ever heard the saying, "Different strokes for different folks"? You appear to be pres-

suring yourself as a result of your friend's bragging. Whether or not to buy a home is a personal decision, and one that can vary from couple to couple (or person to person). You do not need to "keep up with the Joneses" or do anything you don't feel ready for.

A house is more than a roof over one's head. It can also be a reservoir of money that accrues as equity. If you're afraid that if you buy a home you will be trapped for 30 years, think again. People have been known to change homes several times in a lifetime. However, because you and your husband would prefer to take your time and wait to buy until you're more established in your careers, then that's what you should do.

DEAR ABBY: I am a cat person. I'm not particularly fond of dogs, especially when they jump on you, try to lick you or sit in your lap, etc. This is regardless of the breed or size.

My question is, when visiting someone who has a dog that behaves like this, what should I do? It makes me really uncomfortable, and sometimes I don't even want to visit someone's home if I know I'm going to be slobbered on or have my clothes soiled or damaged by their dogs.

UNCOMFORTABLE CAT PERSON

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: A way to ensure it won't happen would be to talk to the dog owner in advance, explain that it makes you very uncomfortable when animals do this and ask that the dog be kept in another room while you're there. But if you are looking for a guarantee, ask the person you want to visit with to come to your home or to meet you in a pet-free place.

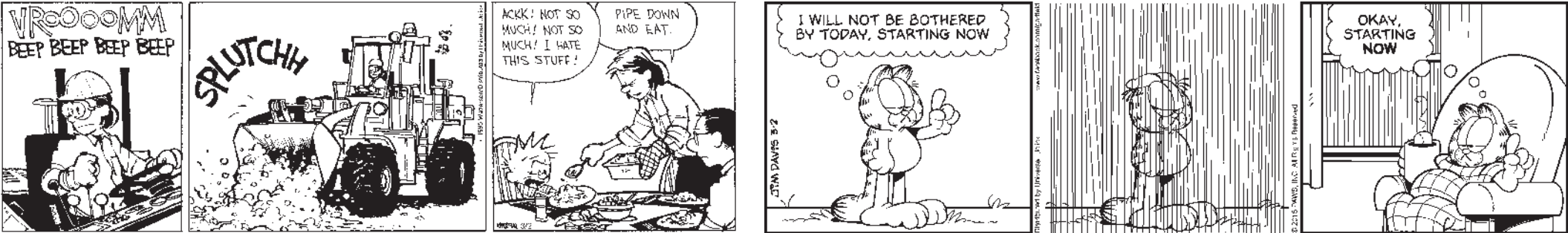
Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

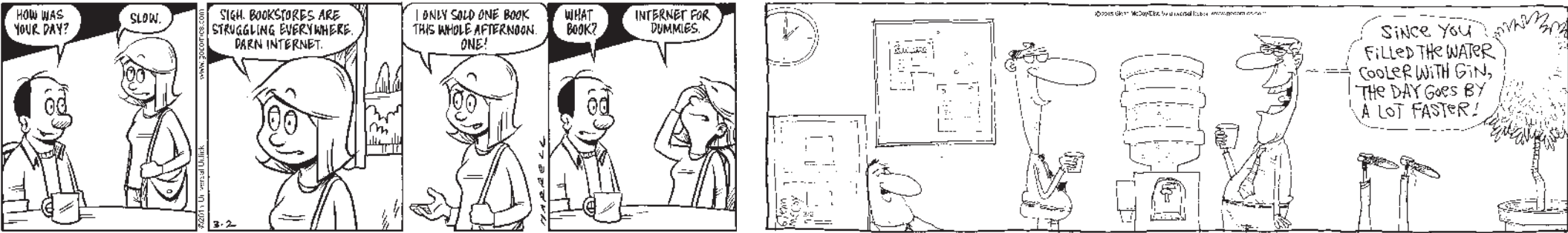
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Poker variety

5 Crooner

8 Ellipse

12 Sci-fi's

13 Leading lady?

14 Lima's country

15 Help in a crime

16 Greek

18 Tangy green condiment

20 Noble

21 Anatomical cavities

23 West of Hollywood

24 Sasha and Malia's mom

28 Men only

31 Tavern

32 Diarist

34 —la-la

35 All over again

37 Wood-finishing substances

39 Homer's interjection

41 Cain's victim

42 Arouse

45 Arouse

49 "Holder" of a brief explanation

51 Guy

52 Reed instrument

53 Have a bug

54 Additionally

55 Swiss city

56 In medias

57 Witnessed

2 Big brass instrument

3 Guitars' kin

4 Remove (from)

5 Planes, trains and automobiles

6 "Get a Secret"

7 Honeycomb compartment

8 La Scala shows

9 Family feud

10 Seed covering

11 Historic sitcom star

17 Sellers co-star

19 Road Runner's sound

22 Omega's opposite

24 Biz deg.

25 Author Fleming

26 Debtor's dinner

27 Looks at intently

29 Joan of —

30 Petrol

33 Dispatched

36 Opposite of "improve"

38 South American herd

40 "Whadja say?"

42 Nose-in-the-air sort

43 Toothpaste dispenser

44 Bosc or Bartlett

46 Hardy cabbage

47 Otherwise

48 Night light?

50 Falsehood

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 3-2

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bryce Dallas Howard, 34; Method Man, 44; Daniel Craig, 47; Jon Bon Jovi, 53.

Happy Birthday: Learn from past mistakes. Give and take will be your ticket to a better year. Accepting responsibility and following through with promises will result in popularity. Sticking to the truth will help you avoid costly mishaps. Take on a project or position that has potential for you to learn and grow. Opportunities will be apparent if you play hard and fair. Your numbers are 8, 15, 23, 26, 32, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Enjoy what life has to offer and you will discover a progressive path to follow. Take on a receptive attitude when it comes to learning, and you'll find a unique way to improve your finances. Romance is highlighted. Live in the moment. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your plans simple and don't share your thoughts until you are certain you can turn them into a reality. Making empty promises will end up being costly. The innocence of a youngster's point of view will be an eye-opener. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make personal changes at home. Join an organization that will help you contribute to a cause you believe in. A chance to discuss an idea with someone who shares your principles will lead to a new beginning. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your energy wisely. Don't let the little things get to you. Step up and do your best to

complete whatever job you've been given, and you will avoid criticism and discord. Don't redo when maintenance is what's required. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your entertaining personality will ensure popularity. Emotional issues with someone you love will escalate, making it a must to channel such energy into something you enjoy doing together. Planning a trip or getting involved in something you enjoy doing will spur enthusiasm. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your personal money matters a secret. A strong feeling you have about someone will lead to profits. A change in a relationship will not turn out as anticipated. Approach partnerships with reservation. Act on your gut feeling. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can alter the future by making suggestions and bringing about reforms. A new friendship will turn out to be quite appealing. Honesty regarding your likes, dislikes and goals will make a difference to the way a partnership unfolds. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be secretive about what you are doing and you will avoid interference. The more you interact with others, the less you will get done. Do not become sidetracked helping someone else get ahead. Put your needs first. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Deals can be made, money spent and contracts signed. Fixing up your surroundings, making a move or changing the dynamics of an important relationship will promote greater happiness and harmony. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Money matters and important partnerships must be looked at carefully. Make your position clear, but be willing to compromise in order to get what you need to excel. A last-minute change can be expected. Prepare to counter strategically. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll make gains doing your own thing and using past experience and connections to get what you want. Dedication will lead to steady progress where work, money and your reputation are concerned. Love is in the stars and romance is encouraged. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Work until you feel satisfied with the results you get. Presenting ideas too soon will lead to criticism. Learn from the mistakes others make and you will develop a flawless plan. Take care of anything that may hinder your success. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You live in the moment. You are a doer and a leader.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](http://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](http://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](http://linkedin.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★ 3/02

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/02

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE PATRIOTS WIN SUPER BOWL XLIX Solution: 7 letters

N A I U N A W A N A M O O H A
R A M K H E C Y O B L O U N T
D E M E S C A R R O L L G O R
E T L L N W N S S A P O L S E
V A R T E D O Y R R E P E L T
E N T S U D O K L D T P N I A
L C H K I B E L N L E O D W L
I A G W Z T L A A O R R A J S
N R I A I E L G B O R A L O I
E P R H F L I G R A Y G E N V
D E W A N L K E A R S E N E E
L N L E I N I W D L A B A S R
O T W S M I S S Y E L L I O T
B E L I C H I C K R A V I T Z
N R E W O T H G I H C N A R B

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Amendola, Baldwin, Belichick, Blount, Bolden, Boyce, Brady, Branch, Butler, Carpenter, Carroll, Develin, Earl, Edelman, Garoppolo, Glendale, Gray, Gronkowski, Hightower, Hoomanawanui, Jones, Kearse, Kravitz, LaFell, Lynch, Missy Elliot, Nate, New England, Pass, Perry, Pete, Revis, Seahawks, Siliga, Slater, White, Wilson, Wright.

Last Friday's Answer: Accident

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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- Applicants must have experience in denture repair and fabrication.
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REM LOWERBASE

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- Willing to work flexible hours
- Must be reliable
- Medical Background is a plus
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Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff:

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,	) Civil Action
	) No. 11-0078
Plaintiff,)
vs.	) SECOND
	) AMENDED
	) NOTICE OF
	) HEARING ON
MICHAEL R. MUÑA and MINA L. MUÑA,	) THE MOTION
	) FOR AN ORDER
	) OF JUDICIAL
Defendants.	) SALE OF
	) MORTGAGED
	) PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 19th day of March, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable David A. Wiseman on Plaintiff's Motion for an Order of Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 9th day of February 2015.

/s / CLERK OF COURT

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

**DEADLINE APPROACHING
FOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING**

This is to remind all individuals who may be required to file OPA Form EC-101, the Statement of Financial Interest, that the **deadline for filing without penalty is May 31, 2015.** The filing of this form, including a Notary's verification, covers calendar year 2014 and is required by the Government Ethics Code (1 CMC § 8501, et seq.). Any person failing to comply with the financial disclosure requirement of this law is subject to financial and other penalties, including a **\$10 per day fine** for any periods of delinquency.

The following individuals are required to file a Statement of Financial Interest:

- Each elected Commonwealth official.
- Each appointed Commonwealth or judicial officer, including department Secretaries, Directors and their deputies, regular or acting members of Boards, Commissions and Task Forces.
- Each public employee who received additional compensation in calendar year 2014 either for professional services they may have rendered or as an independent contractor for any government agency of the Commonwealth.

You may obtain forms from several sources including the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA), located on Capitol Hill at 1236 Yap Drive (phone 322-6481/2), or you may download the required form from OPA's web site at www.opacnmi.com. Also, notary services needed in verifying the form is available at OPA free of charge.

For more information, please visit or call OPA; or contact OPA via e-mail at mail@opacnmi.com.

Notary Service Schedule:

Saipan:
Office of the Public Auditor
Monday through Friday
8am to 4:30pm

Rota:
Rota Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Monday, April 27, 2015 – 9am to 4:30pm
Tuesday, April 28, 2015 – 9am to 11am

Tinian:
Tinian Mayor's Office (Conference Room)
Wednesday, April 29, 2015 – 8:30am to 4:30pm

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-15**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
(IFB) CANCELLATION**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) has canceled the following Invitation for Bids (IFB): **CPA-IFB-003-15, including any amendments**, effective immediately. The IFB will be re-issued at a later date.

The reason for the cancellation is to allow CPA to gather sufficient documentation to be able to accurately determine the amount of trash to be collected and what type of equipment would be most beneficial in handling this trash.

Bidders who have already submitted bids will have their bids returned unopened or they can pick up their bid packages at Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any bid submitted will not be opened and no contract will be awarded under this current IFB.

A new, revised IFB will be issued once CPA has collected the relevant data. All bidders who received a bid set for this IFB will be notified. Additionally, a notice informing the public of the revised IFB will be issued.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

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To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Hawks give 4 players rest, still top Heat, 93-91

MIAMI (AP)—Paul Millsap scored 22 points, Dennis Schroder added 16 points and 10 assists and the intentionally depleted Atlanta Hawks still had enough to beat the Miami Heat 93-91 on Saturday night.

Kent Bazemore scored 15, including a big 3-pointer with about a minute left that gave the Hawks an 89-80 lead. John Jenkins scored 12 for Atlanta, which turned 23 Miami turnovers into 31 points.

Dwyane Wade scored 22 points for Miami, which fell to 10-17 at home and remains in the No. 7 spot in the Eastern Conference race. Hassan Whiteside finished with 14 points and tied a season high with 24 rebounds for Miami, which also got 16 points from Mario Chalmers and 10 from Henry Walker.

It was the second straight night Miami lost by two points, after falling in New Orleans 104-102 on Friday.

The Hawks rested four regulars—Al Horford didn't even make the trip because his wife just had a baby, while Pero Antic, DeMarre Carroll and Jeff Teague were given the night off.

Knicks 103, Raptors 98

In New York, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 22 points, Langston Galloway made a clinching 3-pointer and New York ended a sad day for the franchise by handing Toronto its season-high fifth straight loss.

After beginning the night with a moment of silence for former Knicks forward Anthony Mason, who died Saturday at 48, the team finished it by celebrating its second straight victory.

Former Raptors center Andrea Bargnani scored 19 points and newcomer Alexey Shved had 15 for the Knicks.

Lou Williams scored 22 points for the Raptors, who fell into a tie with Chicago for second place in the Eastern Conference and are just a half-game ahead of Cleveland for fourth.

Toronto coach Dwane Casey gave slumping All-Star



AP
Atlanta Hawks forward Paul Millsap (4) shoots under pressure from Miami Heat guard Henry Walker (5) in the first half of their NBA basketball game, Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015 in Miami.

Spurs 101, Suns 74

In Phoenix, Kawhi Leonard had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio dominated from the opening tip in a rout of Phoenix.

The Spurs, playing the finale of their annual nine-game "rodeo road trip," were up 51-24 at the break, the fewest points in a half for the Suns in franchise history. San Antonio led by as many as 34 in the second half.

Marcus Morris scored 15 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, when Phoenix scored 33 to avoid breaking the team record for fewest points in a game—68 against Kansas City 34 years ago.

Danny Green, Boris Diaw and Aron Baynes scored 12 apiece for the Spurs.

The 27-point margin matched the Suns' most one-sided loss of the season.

San Antonio fell two points shy of its largest victory of the season.

Nets 104, Mavericks 94

In Dallas, Deron Williams scored 25 points and Thaddeus Young had 16 points and

eight rebounds off the bench in Brooklyn's victory over Dallas.

The win completed a 3-5 road trip for the Nets, who moved into eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 20 points and Devin Harris had 14 for Dallas, which dropped percentage points behind the Los Angeles Clippers into sixth place in the West.

The Mavericks played their second consecutive game without Tyson Chandler (bruised left hip) and fourth straight without Chandler Parsons (sprained left ankle). That resulted in a three-guard starting lineup, with Nowitzki making a rare start at center.

Mason Plumlee added 14 points, 10 rebounds and a season-high three blocks for Brooklyn.

Jazz 82, Bucks 75

In Salt Lake City, Trey Burke had 23 points and six assists to help Utah hold off Milwaukee.

Derrick Favors added 16 points, 12 rebounds and three steals for the Jazz, who have won consecutive games for the sixth time this season. They are yet to win three in a row.

Rudy Gobert had 12 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks.

Khris Middleton had 18 points, six rebounds, three assists and two steals for the Bucks. Michael Carter-Williams finished with 16 points.

Kyle Lowry a night off to rest. \Wizards 99, Pistons 95

In Washington, John Wall scored 22 points, Nene added 21 and Washington ended its six-game losing streak with a win over Detroit.

The Wizards, who had lost 11 of 13, won despite blowing a 21-point second-half lead. Marcin Gortat had 16 points and 17 rebounds for Washington.

With the Wizards up by one, Bradley Beal made his first free throw with 10 seconds left, making it 97-95. He missed the second, but the rebound was

batted out to Wall, who was fouled and made both shots with 7.3 seconds left.

Greg Monroe had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who have lost three straight.

Grizzlies 101, Timberwolves 97

In Minneapolis, Marc Gasol had 27 points and 11 rebounds, and Mike Conley hit a big 3-pointer with 30 seconds left to lift Memphis over Minnesota.

Gasol scored nine straight points in the final 4 minutes, and Conley's 3 from the wing broke

a 95-all tie. Conley finished with 17 points and hit two free throws with 11 seconds left for the Grizzlies.

Andrew Wiggins scored 25 points and Ricky Rubio had 13 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Wolves. Kevin Garnett was ejected early in the third quarter of his second game back in a Wolves uniform after picking up his second technical foul.

Kevin Martin missed a 3-pointer from the corner that could have tied it in the closing seconds.

Anthony Mason, rugged forward of 1990s Knicks, dies at 48

NEW YORK (AP)—Anthony Mason's game was grit over glitz, more force than flash.

That might not fit some stereotypes of New York, but it was the perfect style for the Knicks of the 1990s, and made the rugged forward a beloved bruiser by teammates and fans.

Mason died Saturday morning, the Knicks said. He was 48.

Former teammate Patrick Ewing said his "heart is heavy" after learning Mason died after recent heart problems.

"Mase came to play every night and was always ready to go to battle with me every time we stepped on the court together," Ewing said in a statement. "I will remember him for

his strength, determination and perseverance."

Mason was a defensive force who played for six NBA teams from 1989-2003, a popular protector of superstars like Ewing and respected by opponents who knew they were in for punishment when they lined up against his muscular frame.

"As a competitor, there was none fiercer than Anthony Mason. Standing on the opposite end of the playing field, coaching in those great Chicago/New York battles, No. 14 in the orange and blue always stood out," said Knicks President Phil Jackson, who coached the Chicago Bulls during their many matchups against the

'90s Knicks.

Added Michael Jordan: "Mase was one of the toughest competitors of his era."

He remained a fighter throughout his health problems, his family said in thanking fans for their prayers.

"Anthony felt each and every one. He fought like a warrior to the very end," the Mason family said in a statement provided by the Knicks.

The Knicks held a moment of silence for Mason on Saturday night before their game against the Toronto Raptors. Many former Knicks posted their thoughts about Mason on Twitter throughout what the Madison Square Garden public

address announcer called a sad day for the franchise.

The Knicks have been unable to duplicate their success of the '90s and coach Derek Fisher said Mason's determination could serve as a guide.

"He embodied a lot of what we're continuing to try to do here," Fisher said.

Part power forward, part point forward, the 6-foot-7 Mason won the 1995 Sixth Man Award with the Knicks, later made an All-Star team, and twice led the league in minutes played. But it was the toughness he provided alongside Charles Oakley while surrounding franchise center Ewing that made him a fan favorite in New York.

NBA BRIEFS

Heat say Bosh has been released from hospital

MIAMI (AP)—Chris Bosh's first step toward recovery is complete. He's home. The Miami Heat forward has been discharged from a South Florida hospital where he was treated for blood clots on one of his lungs. Bosh was hospitalized for just over a week and will still be monitored closely, but simply being released is a major step on his road back to health. "That was his first goal," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He's been very anxious to get out of there. It was driving him nuts." Spoelstra said Bosh was sent home Friday. The situation was a huge scare for Bosh and the Heat, especially since his condition was diagnosed just days after former NBA star Jerome Kersey died because a blood clot traveled from one of his legs to one of his lungs. The team has not released any specifics about Bosh's condition, other than saying he had clots on a lung. Bosh will miss at least the rest of the season. His condition was diagnosed last week after he played with pain in his side and back for several days. His final on-court appearance was the NBA All-Star contest in New York two weeks ago, and he went to a hospital for evaluation after being stricken by severe pain while vacationing with Dwyane Wade in Haiti several days later.

Thunder's Russell Westbrook has surgery on cheekbone

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook had surgery to repair a fracture to his right cheek Saturday and the NBA's hottest player will miss at least a game. The Thunder said the surgery took place in Los Angeles, where they will play the Lakers on Sunday, and that Westbrook would be re-evaluated next week. Westbrook was hurt in the final seconds of the Thunder's 115-112 loss Friday night in Portland, when he scored 40 points in his third straight triple-double. Teammate Andre Roberson's knee crashed into Westbrook's face, leaving a noticeable imprint on his right cheek. The MVP of the All-Star Game, Westbrook has had triple-doubles in his past three games. For the month of February, he averaged 31.2 points, 10.2 assists and 9.1 rebounds and led the team to a 9-3 record. The Thunder already were without reigning league MVP Kevin Durant, who had a screw replaced in his surgically repaired right foot last Sunday. Thunder center Steven Adams also has been out with a hand injury.

Harrington takes 36-hole lead, then more rain in Florida



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP)—Padraig Harrington is a 36-hole leader on the PGA Tour for the first time in nearly five years and he knows he has a long way to go.

A vicious storm Saturday at the Honda Classic made his weekend even longer.

Harrington made six birdies in the 12 holes he played Saturday morning in the rain-delayed tournament to complete a 4-under 66 and take a one-shot lead over Patrick Reed, with Ian Poulter and Brendan Steele another shot behind.

The third round ended 51 minutes after it started because of a storm that packed 50 mph gusts and dumped about 5 inches of rain on PGA National. The storm was so severe that it created an air bubble on the 18th green the size of a sea turtle, caused the sides of bunkers to cave in and toppled an electronic scoreboard off a platform and down to the bottom of a lake.

"That's as bad as I've ever seen it rain," Russell Knox of Scotland said after a 68 left him

four shots behind.

Only 24 players completed a hole before the storm arrived, causing the third delay of the week. The plan was to return at 10 a.m. Sunday to resume the round, and continue with the same pairings to play as much as possible on Sunday. The tournament now is to end on Monday.

"We've got pretty much a mess," said Slugger White, the tour's vice president of competition.

It helps that the next event is a World Golf Championship about a 90-minute drive down the highway at Doral, and there is no pro-am.

Harrington, the three-time major champion from Ireland, has fallen to No. 297 in the world and couldn't qualify for Doral even if he were to win. He won the Indonesian Open on the Asian Tour at the end of last year, ending a four-year drought dating to another Asian Tour event.

His last PGA Tour victory was his second straight major, the 2008 PGA Championship at Oakland Hills. He said the benefit of playing Indonesia was a boost to his confidence, on and



AP
Padraig Harrington, of Ireland, acknowledges the fans on the ninth hole during the second round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

round of the week at PGA National with a 64 and was two shots back. He holed out for eagle with a sand wedge on the fourth hole and dropped only one shot on the back nine.

"If I play half as good as I've obviously played today, then I'm going to have a chance come Sunday," Poulter said.

Steele's 69 score doesn't reflect his up-and-down day. He didn't make a par until the 10th hole, playing the front nine with six birdies and three bogeys. And then he made nothing but pars on the back nine except for a double bogey on the 16th.

Luke Donald finished his 67 on Friday and was another shot back at 4-under 136.

The cut was at 4-over 144 and didn't include Rory McIlroy. His first tournament in America in five months lasted only two days for the world's No. 1 player. McIlroy bogeyed three of his last four holes on Friday for a 74 and missed the cut by three shots.

Phil Mickelson, who had missed two straight cuts on the West Coast swing, finished up at 67 on Saturday and was five shots behind.

The focus on Sunday starts with Harrington.

"Through 27 holes, I was the most confident guy in the world, and less so at the moment," he said after his bogey-bogey finish. "I know it's going to be a long weekend, and a tough weekend. I have two options. I can play well on the weekend or I can dig deep and hang in there."

White Sox ace Sale breaks bone in foot, out at least three weeks



G L E N - DALE, Ariz.

(AP)—Chicago White Sox ace Chris Sale is out for at least three weeks after breaking a bone in his right foot in what the team described as an accident at home.

Unloading the back of his truck, general manager Rick Hahn explained Saturday.

Sale, though, told quite a different tale. Asked what happened, the three-time All-Star launched into a longer story, deadpanning the whole way, about some intruder breaking into his house at night.

"So I hit him with a roundhouse, tied him up" and put him by the curb, Sale told reporters.

Asked if he was concerned about his foot, Sale went on with a straight face: "Well, yeah, by looking at the other guy's head when I kicked him, it didn't look good."

"Initially I was a little worried, but after the X-rays and all that stuff, it worked out," he said. "I don't see this trickling into the regular season at all."

The 25-year-old lefty was on crutches in camp, and the injury put in jeopardy a possible start for him on opening day. The White Sox begin April 6 at Kansas City.

"Things happen. It was really just a freak incident," Sale said.

Sale had X-rays on Saturday at a hospital in Glendale. He'll have more tests after the swelling goes down.

"I came into this spring as ready as I've ever been, so this

is a minor setback," he said.

Sale was 12-4 with 208 strikeouts and a 2.17 ERA last season, finishing third in the AL Cy Young Award voting. He missed a month last year with a flexor strain in his left elbow, but returned at top form.

"I mean, essentially it's a sprained ankle. I'll be fine," Sale said. "They aren't going to have to cut it off. I'll be walking on it in a few days. I'm not going to get down on myself."

At the same time, Sale said he's not going to rush back.

"I'm not a doctor. I'm here to do my rehab and get it right as fast as I can," he said. "That's what I'm going to do. I've never done anything like this before and I don't know what the timetable is."

While the White Sox had not yet announced their rotation for the beginning of the season, it was expected that Sale would start on opening day for the third straight season.

If he's not ready by then, other candidates to fill Sale's rotation spot include veteran Brad Penny and Carlos Rodon, the team's first-round draft pick last June.

Jeff Samardzija, Jose Quintana, John Danks and Hector Noesi already are set in the rotation.

"Clearly we're going to err on the side of caution and we'll know more in the coming weeks," Hahn said. "Due to the off-days early in the season we do not need a fifth starter, so to speak, until April 12. That would buy you another week."

off the golf course. At such a small tournament, his name resonates.

"They treat you like a star, you play like a star," he said. "I'm back to being a three-time major winner. I went for that reason - to give my ego a boost. There's definitely a lot to being a big fish in a small pond."

That was a proper analogy when PGA National turned into a pond, and Harrington surely played the role of a big fish.

Thanks to nearly four hours

of rain delays Friday, he made it through six holes and returned Saturday with back-to-back birdies on the 16th and 17th holes, and then another from about 10 feet on No. 1, posing over just about every shot.

After a bogey set up by a wild tee shot on the par-5 third hole—he had to pitch down the second fairway because of the trees—Harrington ran off three straight birdies before a few loose tee shots cost him. The rough had become so thick

and wet that he couldn't reach the green on his last two holes, making bogeys on both.

He finished at 7-under 133.

"It's nice to be in contention," Harrington said. "I'm very positive about my game coming in here this week. I don't know what's going to happen the next 36 holes, but I have a good idea where I'm going. I'm pretty confident."

Reed finished his 67 on Friday.

Poulter matched the low

Browns, QB Josh McCown agree to terms on contract

By **TOM WITHERS**
AP SPORTS WRITER



The Browns have yet another new quarterback, and this one has a familiar last name.

Josh McCown, who went 1-10 as Tampa Bay's starter last season, agreed to terms on a three-year contract with Cleveland on Friday. McCown's younger brother, Luke, played for the Browns in 2004 - one of 22 different starting quarterbacks the Browns have used since 1999.

The 35-year-old McCown had also been in contract talks with the Buffalo Bills, who like the Browns have QB issues.

While McCown didn't play well in 2014, he does give the Browns options as they try to solidify a problematic position. McCown will likely compete for the starting job, but if he doesn't win it, he can serve as a mentor for Johnny Manziel and Connor Shaw. Or possibly

be a backup if the Browns sign another veteran in free agency or draft one of the top college prospects in this year's draft.

"I just want to serve our team and help everybody in that locker room, do my best to help everybody in the locker room be better at their job, and they're going to help me, too," McCown said. "It's a two-way street. I'm just excited about coming in and being a part of a team."

McCown's signing also likely means the Browns have decided not to re-sign Brian Hoyer, who won 10 games for them the past two seasons. Poised to become a free agent next month, Hoyer made 13 starts last season before he was benched in favor of Manziel, who entered a rehab facility last month. Hoyer had hoped to meet with Browns general manager Ray Farmer next week to discuss his future, but now that meeting might be unnecessary.

Farmer trusts McCown will have a positive impact on the

Browns.

"Josh is your consummate professional," Farmer said. "He's known to be a great guy in the locker room and will be great for the quarterback room. He knows how to get an entire offense on the same page and get a team to rally behind him. He has been exposed to a lot of different types of offenses and we think still has the drive and skill set to be a successful quarterback in this league."

"We are excited to get him and believe he will help continue to move us in the right direction, and help us build the type of team that will bring winning football to Cleveland."

McCown, who also visited Chicago and the New York Jets, previously worked with new Browns offensive coordinator John DeFilippo in Oakland. He's 17-32 with six teams during 12 seasons in the NFL.

McCown said a positive connection with coach Mike Pettine and his staff, as well as Cleveland's strong offensive

line anchored by Pro Bowler Joe Thomas at tackle and center Alex Mack made him pick the Browns.

"That's kind of what drove the ship for me," he said.

In 2013, McCown replaced an injured Jay Cutler as Chicago's starter and went 3-2. He passed for 1,829 yards and 13 touchdowns during the five-game span and had 348 or more yards passing in three straight games.

Pettine is excited by what McCown can bring the Browns.

"Josh is a high-character, savvy, veteran quarterback that has a lot to offer to our team," Pettine said. "When you hear from people that have been around Josh, they speak of the leadership qualities and the positive impact he has on a locker room. I really enjoyed spending time with him during his visit. He has great passion for playing the quarterback position and wants to show that he can still be successful in this league."

9 Tsunami Saipan swimmers off to Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center is sending a nine-member team to Japan to compete in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2015 this weekend.

Leading Tsunami Saipan's team are Tokyo Sprint returnees Kaito and Ryuto Yanai and Miku Tammy. Completing the squad are Sophia Gauran, Juhn Tenorio, Nanaka Watanabe, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Hans Xu, and Ashley Dangol. Former Tsunami Saipan swimmers and brothers Shin and Kensuke Kimura, who are now studying in Japan, will assist the young swimmers. The team will leave Saipan for Tokyo on March 5.

This weekend is Kaito's fourth appearance in the same tournament, having joined the competition in 2010, 2012, and 2014. Last year, the 15-year-old Marianas High School freshman brought home two medals, winning the gold in the 100m individual medley and silver in the 50m breaststroke.

Tammy also took two gold medals in last year's event, her second stint in the annual competition. The 12-year-old Tanapag Elementary School student hauled a gold medal in the 50m butterfly and bronze in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The nine Tsunami Saipan swimmers who will be competing in Tokyo, Japan this weekend, pose for a group photo before resuming their training session last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

the 100m IM.

Ryuto notched two medals, too (gold in the 50m freestyle and bronze in the 50m butterfly) when he debuted in the same tournament in 2012 and is expected to join

similar events in his return to the competition for 18-and-under swimmers.

The remaining members of the team also have impressive accomplishments even though they will be participating in the

off-island contest for the first time.

The 11-year-old Gauran had three high-point award on her belt, having topped the 9 to 10

age group of the 2014 Saipan International

Meet and Guam Championships and 11 to 12 division of the 2015 SSC Pentathlon Meet in January.

Tenorio, Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, and Watanabe, who will enter the 9 to 10 competi-

tion this weekend, are also coming off notable performances last year. The 10-year-old Tenorio took the high point trophy in Guam International Meet, was runner-up in the Guam Championship, and finished third in the Saipan International Meet. Camacho gained the second place in the high point category in 2014 Saipan International Meet and Guam Championships, while Watanabe ruled both the girls U8 division of the Saipan and Guam meet last year.

Dangol, the youngest female member of the Tokyo-bound squad, took runner-up honors last year in the Saipan and Guam competition before starting 2015 with a first place award in the Saipan Swim Club-organized pentathlon meet last month. Xu, another U8 swimmer, grabbed third place high point award in the Saipan meet and both Guam tournaments last year and duplicated Dangol's feat in the pentathlon competition.

Tsunami Saipan is one of the 113 teams participating in the Tokyo Sprint, which will be held at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena. The 10 swimmers are the most so far the club will be sending to the annual tournament, which draws 3,345 swimmers around the world.

SSC International Meet set for March 12 to 14

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2015 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Swim Meet will run from March 12 to 14 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

The meet, which is expected to draw participants from Guam and the Marshall Islands, listed 22 events spread in three days.

For the first day, swimmers in the 11-and-over age group will race in the 1,500m freestyle and to qualify they must have an A time in the 200m freestyle. The 400m individual medley is the only other event scheduled in Day 1 and it's for swimmers in the 13-and-over age group. Competition will start at 5:10pm.

For Day 2, races will begin at 3pm and events are as follows: 400m freestyle for 13-and-over, 100m breaststroke, 200m IM, 100m butterfly, and 4x100m medley relay for all ages, and 200m backstroke 11-and-over. Swimmers competing in the 400m freestyle must also have an A time in the 200m freestyle to qualify.

For the final day of the

swim meet, SSC will hold two sessions. The morning races will kick off at 8pm and will feature the 4x100m freestyle relay, 50m butterfly, 100m freestyle, and 100m backstroke for all ages, 800m freestyle for 13-and-over (A time in 200m freestyle), 200m breaststroke for 11-and-over, and 200m mixed medley relay (2 boys and 2 girls) for all ages.

In the final session, which will start at 2pm, swimmers will race in the 50m and 200m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, 200m freestyle relay, and 200m mixed freestyle relay events. The six afternoon events are for all ages.

Swimmers in the U8 age group can compete in as many as seven individual events, while the rest can join a maximum of nine races. There is no limit for relay races. At the end of the competition, high-point awards will be given to the Top 3 finishers in each age group.

Meanwhile, to prepare for this month's swim meet, SSC will hold a pool clean up on March 8, starting at 3pm. To volunteer for the cleanup, send email to saipanswimclub@gmail.com.

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

date with MHS.

In the finals, Southern seemed to show no signs of fatigue as it went toe-to-toe with MHS and was only down by 3 points, 38-35, midway in the second period. SSHS even held an 8-4

lead on Jethro Cruz's consecutive baskets with three minutes gone in the opening period.

A Prince Factor basket ignited a 14-6 exchange as the Dolphins entered the third period with a 52-41 advantage.

Back-to-back buzzer-beating 3-pointers served as highlights of the Dolphins' dominant sec-

ond quarter with Arciaga just throwing the ball with the shot clock about to expire and John Benavente tossing a shot at the free throw line of Southern's frontcourt to beat the clock.

Warren Ellama's 5 straight points kicked off another barrage of points by MHS in the third quarter and Southern did

not recover from there with Mikell Arciaga's 3-pointer giving the Dolphins a 68-48 spread 5:26 left in the period.

Arciaga and Factor led MHS' balanced scoring with 16 points each, Michael Espinosa scattered 13 markers, while Ignacio Borja and DJay Ong scored 12 and 10 apiece.

Tyler Palacios and Jethro Cruz finished with 17 and 16 points each for Southern, while Edilberto Javier Jr. ended up with 9 markers. John Paul Rivera and Mi'i Tekopua combined for 16.

MHS 113 – Arciaga 16, Factor 16, Espinosa 13, Borja 12,

Ong 10, Mendoza 9, Malonzo 8, Ellama 7, Benavente 6, Dancoe 6, De Leon 4, Manalili 4, Montes 2.

SSHS 77 – Palacios 17, Cruz 16, Javier Jr. 9, Rivera 8, Tekopua 8, Bondoc 6, Taitano 6, Esmundo 4, Kintaro 3.

Scoring by quarters: 24-23 52-41, 86-56, 113-77.

KAGBOYS

From Page 28

first safely on another Kagboys error and reached home plate on a throwing error by catcher A.J. Sanchez to make it 7-5.

He then forced Alvin Hocog to ground out on another 4-3 play by Suel and Jun Celis for the second out, but walked Forrest Pangelinan after that. Pangelinan reached third base on consecutive passed balls and touched home plate on a Devin Ayuyu RBI single.

Ayuyu moved to second on another passed ball but Tom

Agulto ended the match when he struck out Denzel Pangelinan for the third out.

Falcons 7, Docomo Ol'Aces 3

Kyle Kapileo tossed one no-hit inning in relief and had an RBI triple to help the Falcons get past the Docomo Ol'Aces. He scored one run, had two RBIs, and a triple, while also striking out two and walking six batters in relief.

Joel Norita pitched four innings in the start giving up two hits with nine strikeouts and two walks.

Aven Evangelista closed out for the Falcons and fanned Ol'Aces leadoff batter C.J. Kaipat. Ken Kaipat got on base on an error by first baseman Milanion Sablan, who was left stranded after Latrel Deleon Guerrero struck out and Andre Macaranas was tagged out going to third.

The loss came on the heels of the Ol'Aces' 38-3 pounding of the Jets on Thursday where they belted five homeruns with Jordan Babauta whacking two homers, while Ohane Borja and Trevon Lieto hitting solo shots in the first inning.

Red Sox 13, McDonald's 2

Shane Mallens blasted an inside-the-park-homer in a 2-for-3 appearance at the plate, while Devon Pangelinan went 3-for-3 with a pair of singles and three runs for the Red Sox.

Pangelinan pitched 3.2 innings surrendering five hits while striking out nine and walking two batters.

JUNIORS Falcons 14, Enforcers 6

Spencer Dickerson had an RBI double in the Falcons' six-run sixth inning barrage, while

Arby Yaquel went 3-for-4, scoring three times and had an RBI single in the third for the Falcons.

Noel Cabrera pitched 5.2 innings in start allowing three earned runs on three hits with five strikeouts and two walks.

SENIORS Red Sox 8, Comets 2

Richard Atalig tossed six one-hit innings, fanning nine, and walking two batters while going 2-for-3 at the plate with a double, a triple, and two runs for the Red Sox.

He got plenty of help from

Vince Leon Guerrero who went perfect at the plate 3-for-3, with two runs, and a triple and Ton Agulto, 2-for-3, scored one run, a double, and an RBI single in the second to bring in Atalig.

Braves 12, Fielders 7

Juan Quitugua scored twice and had two RBIs in a 3-for-4 plate appearance, while Logan Martin went 2-for-4 with a two-RBI single in the first in the Braves' win.

Martin lasted six innings on the mound and was tagged with two earned runs on six hits with six strikeouts and one walk.

BLUE HAUS

From Page 28

ing tip. The eventual champion team built an early double-digit spread, 24-6, after the first 10 minutes of play.

Tony Diaz led Blue Haus' hot start, scoring 6 points, while six of his teammates contributed at least one basket apiece in the decisive first period.

KB Hite was held to a field goal in the entire opening quarter off Manny Duenas' layup, while Randy Mungcal earned 3 points from the stripe and Art

Montes had a split to complete the team's early slide. Ed Pangelinan, one of the top scorers for KB Hite, did not start for the team and though he scored 10 points in the second quarter he and Randy Mungcal failed to get help from their teammates.

In contrast, Blue Haus got plenty of support from its second stringers, while the starters kept going in the second quarter to stretch the lead to 21, 52-31. Blue Haus even padded the lead to as high as 25 in the closing minutes of the first half and did a good job protecting its big

lead en route to the title win.

Etsel Mendoza top-scored for Blue Haus with his 23 points, while Diaz added 18, and Junar Guiab and Ernie Moises chipped in 12 and 11, respectively.

Mungcal paced KB Hite with his 20 points, while Pangelinan tallied 17, still a far cry from his 30-point output against Bammy's. Duenas was the third KB Hite player to hit double figures, but most of his baskets came when the game was already in the bag for Blue Haus.

Marlon Sison and Elmer

Pineda, who helped KB Hite take the second finals berth against Bammy's, were held to 8 and 2 points, respectively. Sison, who hit clutch free throws in the closing minute of their game against Bammy and scored 12 points, failed to can a single triple in the finals and was scoreless in the first half. Pineda, who logged 16 markers in their win over Bammy's was held to a field goal versus Blue Haus, nailing his lone basket in the third period.

Meanwhile, Bammy's settled for a third place finish after rout-

ing Armatech in the consolation match, 89-75.

Jun Tabora exploded for 39 points to lead Bammy's, while Alex Ocampo and Joel Saplan registered 21 and 16, respectively. Bernard Montano had 16 for Armatech, which played without Bruce Berline, Yosh Gabaldon, and Ferdie Tobias.

First Game

Bammy's 89 – J. Tabora 39, Ocampo 21, Saplan 16, Catalla 9, Zapata 2.

Armatech 76 – Montano 16, Abuy 15, Malasarte 14, Bartolo

10, Tolentino 6, Park 2.

Scoring by halves: 40-40, 89-76.

Second Game

Blue Haus 94 – Mendoza 23, Diaz 18, Guiab 12, Moises 11, Buenabaja 4, Factor 4, Santos 4, Palacios 4, Fernandez 3, Valencia 2, Macoto 2.

KB Hite 78 – Mungcal 20, Pangelinan 17, Duenas 10, Sison 8, Montes 7, Verano 4, Morales 3, Koebel 2, Demapan 2, Pineda 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-6, 52-31, 69-50, 94-78.

'The Crank' takes on tough Japanese foe

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho kicks off his 2015 campaign against Japan's lightweight shooto champion Yusuke Kasuya in the Pacific Xtreme Combat 47 on March 13 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Mangilao.

The Camacho-Kasuya bout is one of the four featured undercard fights of the Jang Yong Kim-Yusuke Kachi headliner.

The 25-year-old Guam-born fighter (15-2, with 11 wins by knockout) said he has prepared and trained hard against Kasuya (8-2, with 1 KO victory),

who is a known scrappy fighter.

"I'm most excited about this PXC 47 fight in particular because my opponent, Kasuya, is a scrapper. From watching his previous fights, he's a tough guy that finishes fights," posted Camacho on his Facebook page.

"These are the opponents I look forward to. I fantasize about the hard-tough fights

ahead. I truly get the full Fokai experience. Exhaust the body, proceed the mind, and cultivate the spirit."

Camacho added that tough foes like Kasuya pushes and challenges him to further raise his game.

"Tough opponents like Yusuke force me to rise to the occasion and dig down deep for that extra push, that extra round, that extra punch during training, these are the things that make me a better martial artist," said Camacho.

Camacho said he's in great shape as he has not stopped training since scoring a first-round submission win over Jae Woong Kim

by arm-triangle choke in Trench Warz 18: Rock and Rumble in his return bout on Saipan last Dec. 12.

"I'm in killer shape, weight in on point, zero injuries, and no more ring rust. This fight is very important for the goals I've set for 2015," added Camacho, who is aiming to someday compete and represent the Marianas in the Ultimate Fighting Cham-

pionship.

"For generations our people have been fighting. It runs through our veins. To save our land, preserve our culture, and our daily life struggles. That's what I fight for. I'm on a mission to show the world where these islands in the Pacific are."

He thanked his family, fans, and his girlfriend, Sarah (Filyush), for all the love and support they've shown throughout the years.

"Thank you to my hometown CNMI fans. On March 13th, I'm not competing alone; I have my island behind me. For all that love and support, thank you. Thank you all very much for believing in me and supporting me through everything."

JON PEREZ

Frank "The Crank" Camacho aims for his fifth straight win when he goes up against Japan's lightweight shooto champion Yusuke Kasuya in Pacific Xtreme Combat 47 set on March 13 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Mangilao. Camacho is fresh from scoring a submission win by arm-triangle choke against Korean Jae Woong Kim last December.



Latte Sparts in shutout win in SEDA

The Jokers Latte Sparts opened up their campaign with a 15-0 shutout win over the Sand Juvy Sunrisers in the Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association Fanihi B Division last Thursday held in various bars on the island.

Kevin Villagomez, Darrol Atalig, Rusty Santos, Jun Santos, Vince Repeki, and Melvin Aldan were merciless against the Sunrisers to grab the early lead in SEDA's season-opening league.

Villagomez, Atalig, Aldan and Rusty Santos easily dispatched Jimmy Brel Sr., Kenneth Aguon, Jimmy Brel Jr., and Gus Camacho to start the rout in the 301 Double In/Double Out event.

Sands National Alamo came in second after a 12-3 decision against Route33 Mixblood Shooters while the Sand Juvy Proofers and Oleai Fearless each scored similar 11-4 wins over the Jokers Preba Darts and the VFW Warriors in the other division matches.

In other results:

Master

■ Sand Juvy TDI Summit 11, Sand Juvy Pythons 6
■ Jokers Scratch 'N' Sniff 10, Jokers Darting chelu's 7
■ Jokers Destroyers 9, Sand Juvy Shoot Balut 8

A Division

■ Sand Juvy Predators 13, Smoke Pub Huntlaw 4

■ Smoke Pub Voyagers 13, Sand Juvy 101 Proofers 4
■ Route33 Mafia 9, Naked Fish Ridin' Darry 8
■ Jokers Warriors 9, Sand Juvy Sakude 8

Flame Tree B

■ Naked Fish Ridin' Darry 10, Jonny's Real Deal 5
■ Abyss Serial Killaz 8, Jokers Snipers 7
■ Naked Fish Na'Gupu 9, Jonny's Kyodai 6
■ Naked Fish Oneshot 9, Sand Juvy No Fear 6

Tuesday B

■ Barcode Like It Or Not 10, Sand Juvy Dabarkads 5
■ Jokers Atarashi Boyz 10, Sand Juvy Pasaways 5
■ Smoke Pub Titans 10, Smoke Pub Dartaholiks 5

Kingfisher

■ Route33 Dart Knights 10, Smoke Pub High Flyers 5
■ Sand Juvy Sea-Ricks 8, Naked Fish Hafa Mas 7
■ Jokers Spartans 12, Jokers Chagi Fan 3

Chichirika C Division

■ Smoke Pub Bull It 9, Blue Koi's 6
■ Abyss DNA Jump It 13, Barcode Breakers 2
■ Jokers Tokers 8, Jokers Darty Flights 7 (Jon Perez)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Sand Juvy TDI Summit celebrate after opening the season with an 11-6 win over sister team Pythons in the Masters Division of the Bud Light SEDA League.



NMIVA High School All-Stars Program kicks off

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is pleased to announce a new indoor volleyball program kicking off this week!

In an effort to increase the youth players' exposure, NMIVA is initiating an All-Star High School Team program. Initially we will begin with one male team and one female team consisting of 30 players each. Not all players will necessarily be selected to attend or play in competitions. This privilege will be earned through hard work, dedication and commitment to the program.

The All-Stars teams will be selected from players who participated in the Marianas Inter-scholastic Sports Organization league's most recent seasons (SY2014-15). Total number of players will be about 60 players. The recent MISO season champion teams will automatically be included and then MISO players will be recruited via nomination by their MISO coaches from each and every other team in the league.

Fundamentally, NMIVA has worked with MISO for the past few years helping with its high school league program, which is inclusive of public and private schools. This program has steadily produced better players each

season; as such it was recognized that the community was ready for the next steps. MISO and NMIVA looked at it and identified two objectives. First, expand to junior high school and second create next tier competition opportunities.

"We think that after this pilot season, we should have a better sense of the base of players that we have to work with and develop over the next 3-4 years. In a long-term vision, these players would either be heading to college with amazing volleyball skills or else continuing to represent a CNMI National Volleyball Team," offered Nick Gross, MISO director.

Guam Volleyball Federation has invited the NMIVA to enter teams in their high school championship tournament. The boys' tournament will be from May 29 to June 1, 2015, and the girls' tournament is set in October with the exact dates to be announced at a latter time. These will be the first competitions that the All-Stars teams will target.

"We've had to look at the fact that our limited resources need to support the greatest return for

the total growth of our sport. We are seeing our initial target population for off island competition is likely those 14-25 ages looking out over the next 5-10 years," said NMIVA president Laurie Peterka

"We've wanted to expand these opportunities for some time now, but we lacked volunteers or resources to help make additional programs possible. Now that we have Darcy and Codie to help Nick and I, we can push forward on our dreams of seeing competitive indoor continue both here and regionally; and eventually internationally.

We have to take baby steps and build our capacity so that we have strong programs, dedicated players and a good shot at competing successfully in the regional and international arenas," said Peterka.

Peterka further commented, "For resource support, we are applying to the Oceania Zonal Volleyball Association (OZVA) and Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC). We've also reached out to USA Volleyball, who helped by donating volleyballs and training videos." (NMIVA)





**Hawks give
4 players
rest, still top
Heat, 93-91**

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takes on
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dolphins drown Manta Rays in finals

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

A well-rested Marianas High School side capitalized on a tired Saipan Southern High School in cruising to a 113-77 blowout win in the finals of the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS successfully defended the title it won last year on Mike Arciaga's put-back to escape with a 37-36 decision against Kagman High School. The Dolphins last won back-to-back titles in 2009 and 2010.

The Kagman High School Ayuyus foiled the Dolphins' three-peat bid in 2011, while



Tinian High School, which only joins the double elimination round final tournament, ruled in 2012.

It was also MHS' third overall MISO title this year after its girls squad clinched the basketball and volleyball trophies ear-

lier in the season.

The Dolphins went undefeated in the tournament finals to clinch the first championship

berth giving them the luxury to wait at the sidelines for their opponent, while the Manta Rays played three straight games

JON PEREZ
Marianas High School forward Kobe Mendoza, front, prepares to take a selfie as his teammates celebrate their finals win against Saipan Southern High School in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.



including a 46-37 comeback from behind win

over the Mt. Carmel Knights in the semifinals.

SSHS, after absorbing a 66-59 loss to Mt. Carmel to drop into the losers bracket on Friday, defeated Grace Christian Academy (45-32) and Kagman (51-46) to keep its finals hopes alive.

The Manta Rays again faced the Knights, who dropped 79-52 match against the Dolphins, in the semis with the finals berth on the line.

MCS was enjoying a 27-24 lead with less than four minutes left but celebrated too early and Saipan Southern used a closing 22-10 run to arrange a finals

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Kagboys nip IT&E Comets, 7-6

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

J.P. Celis and the Kagboys bullpen—composed of Justin Agulto and Tom Agulto—escaped with a 7-6 win over the IT&E Comets in the Major division of the Saipan Little League on Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Baseball Field.

Celis went 3-for-4 with two doubles, a triple, and three RBIs including a two-RBI

double in the first inning that drove in J.R. Suel and Justin Agulto.

Agulto lasted for three innings tossing a no-hitter with four strikeouts and four walks. Tom Agulto pitched three innings in relief giving up one hit with six strikeouts and five walks.

Tom Agulto, with the Kagboys holding on to a 7-3 lead, held his own in the bottom of the sixth when the Comets

tried to steal the game away.

He gave up a lead off walk to Terrance Changar, who advanced to second on a wild pitch and scored on a throwing error.

Tom Agulto then allowed Rexzon Calage to ground out on a 4-3 putout play for the first out, while Joe Palacios followed when he got on

**See KAGBOYS on
Page 26**

Blue Haus bags Masters crown

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Blue Haus capped its perfect run in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League with a 94-78 win against KB Hite in last Saturday's finale at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

A poor KB Hite start allowed Blue Haus to walk away with the 16-point victory and clinch the championship right away. Blue Haus finished the tournament with an immaculate 9-0 record, counting its 6-0 sweep in the regular season, while KB Hite fell short despite pulling off two upset wins in the playoffs.

After eliminating the second-ranked Armatech, 75-64, last Wednesday, the fourth-seeded KB Hite eked out come-from-behind win against Bammy's Restaurant, 92-87, last Friday, to arrange a fi-

nals date with Blue Haus.

Blue Haus had the twice-to-beat advantage in the championship and denied KB Hite any chance of forcing a decid-

ing Game 2 after dominating Game 1 right from the open-

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JON PEREZ
Kagboys batter Donovan Babauta waits for the throw of IT&E Comets pitcher Devin Ayuyu in their Majors division game in the Saipan Little League last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Baseball Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Edsel Mendoza goes up for a reverse layup against KB Hite's Art Montes during the second quarter of their title game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.